

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-13 (with clerical amendment)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REGARDING CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED FEDERAL LEGISLATION RELATED TO SEALASKA CORPORATION ANCSA LAND SELECTION TO THE EXTENT THE BILLS PRIVATIZE VALUABLE AND POPULAR PUBLIC LANDS WITH OUTSTANDING SUBSISTENCE, RECREATION AND ECONOMIC VALUE LOCATED IN OR NEAR CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA, AND RENDER THOSE LANDS INACCESSIBLE TO A VAST MAJORITY OF SITKA'S CITIZENRY

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka supports the conveyance of Sealaska Corporation's (Sealaska) outstanding land selections under ANCSA to finalize Sealaska's ANCSA land entitlements. However, the Assembly has concerns about the current amendments of ANCSA by S. 730 and/or H.R. 1408, or any similar bill, to the extent the proposed legislation would authorize relinquishment and exchange of Sealaska's existing ANCSA selections and selection rights for new selection rights to lands unavailable under ANCSA, whether as enterprise, sacred, cultural or historical sites, which are of high public value to all the people of Sitka for subsistence, tourism and recreation;

WHEREAS, current versions of S. 730 and H.R. 1408 convey into private ownership many of the most popular and valuable public lands in or near the Sitka area. These public lands are prized for their unique location, subsistence attributes, recreational character, and tourism economic values by Sitka's citizens;

WHEREAS, the general public may not have guaranteed access to these lands for fishing, recreation, tourism or subsistence activities pursuant to ANCSA or these amendments;

WHEREAS, once these lands are transferred into private ownership to Sealaska; we ask for a guarantee of public right of access for fishing, hunting, guiding or recreating on these lands;


WHEREAS, we ask to preserve use of and access to these outstanding sites for all Sitkans, including Sealaska shareholders;

WHEREAS, Sitka Comprehensive Plan at 2.1.7, 2.2.8, 2.2.17, and 2.4.10 lists the opportunity to participate in a subsistence lifestyle general goal and policy, as well as protection of subsistence status and resources and that while Sitka is a community of diverse origins, a large majority of its citizens share a deep appreciation of its natural environment and bounty.

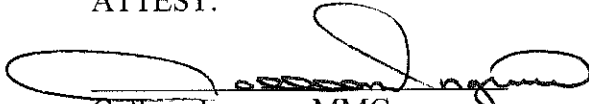
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly and City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska has concerns about the current version of S. 730 and H.R. 1408, or any similar bill, to the extent it would privatize valuable and prized public lands of outstanding subsistence,

recreation and economic value located in or near City and Borough of Sitka, and render the lands inaccessible to an overwhelming majority of Sitka's citizenry.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, on this 24 day of May, 2011.


Cheryl Westover
Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk