

October 14, 1999

Draft #1

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

***Note: Same letter individually to Stevens, Murkowski,  
Young, and Knowles***

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

We are outraged over President Clinton's announcement that "roadless" areas in the national forests will be restricted and placed off-limits to multiple use activities. This action is totally inconsistent with the legal framework of our nation. It is the responsibility of the Congress to determine if and how lands will be developed or placed into Conservation System Units (CSUs). President Clinton has crossed the line of his Constitutional authority and must be stopped.

Additionally, Alaska was promised in ANILCA that there would be "no more" set-asides in this state. Per ANILCA federal agencies are not even allowed to study areas in Alaska for CSUs, or for any designation resembling a CSU by some other name, unless the Congress has given specific authority to do so.

Of Alaska's total area of 365 million acres, after all State and Native transfers have been completed, about 215 million acres will remain federally owned. Of that amount, about 165.4 million acres already is Congressionally designated. This means that 77% of all federal lands is already in CSUs or otherwise off-limits to multiple use. To say it another way, this 165.4 million acres that is already off-limits is equal to the combined total acreage of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois! Furthermore, much of the federal lands that remain "open" have restrictive management policies imposed on them so even these lands are often effectively closed to multiple use.

We urge you to use your position in every possible way to block implementation of this initiative anywhere in the country but especially here in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.E.  
Executive Director

cc: Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Frank Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Governor Tony Knowles

***Note: cc drops when person is addressee at top***