

CITY OF PETERSBURG, ALASKA**RESOLUTION #1921****A RESOLUTION URGING OUR FEDERAL DELEGATION TO POSTPONE ANY FUTURE MOVEMENT OF S.881 (THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT) UNTIL PUBLIC HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ALASKA**

WHEREAS, proposed S.881, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act (also reference HR.2099), would authorize Sealaska Corporation to select and receive conveyance of its remaining land entitlement under the ANCSA (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) from federal lands in southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, S.881 would allow Sealaska to select and receive land from areas currently administered by the Forest Service that are outside of the original withdrawal areas as established in 1971, and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Sealaska's proposed land selections are productive national forest lands with substantial infrastructure of roads, marine access facilities and bridges that were constructed and have been maintained by tax payer dollars through the US Forest Service, and

WHEREAS, these public lands are used continuously by local communities for personal subsistence and recreation, as well as for commercial recreation and tourism activities, and outfitter and guide services, and

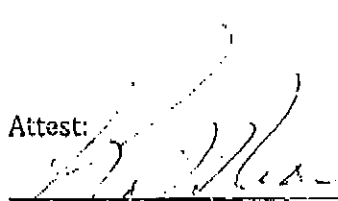
WHEREAS, placing these lands in private ownership will deny the general public the ability to use the lands and threaten the economies of existing communities while benefiting only the share holders of a corporation of which many members no longer reside in the region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council, for Petersburg, Alaska, hereby supports finalizing entitlements under ANCSA, but requests that its Federal Delegation postpone any further movement of S.881 until public hearings have been held throughout Southeast Alaska. To find a solution that benefits all concerns, it is important for all concerns to have a voice.

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to Senators Murkowski and Begich and the other co-sponsors of S.881; and to Representative Young.

Passed and Approved by the Petersburg City Council at a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 16, 2009.

Attest:


Kathy O'Rear, City Clerk


Al Dwyer, Mayor