

CITY OF THORNE BAY
RESOLUTION 09-06-16-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY,
ALASKA, OPPOSING THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND
ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT

WHEREAS, the City Council is the governing body for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska;
and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act (hereafter
referred to as the Act) proposes a significant land exchange on the north portion of Prince
of Wales Island (Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger District), that would effect
the City of Thorne Bay, and

WHEREAS, these lands proposed are productive forests with substantial infrastructure of
roads and bridges maintained by the U.S Forest Service, and substantial mature forests,
that may be harvested in the near future, and

WHEREAS, these lands proposed are productive forests with substantial infrastructure of
roads and bridges maintained by the U.S Forest Service, and substantial second growth
forests, and

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay would receive an economic benefit by way of more
jobs for local residents and sales taxes from these jobs when these forests are harvested--
this represents future economic stability for the City of Thorne Bay,

WHEREAS, if this land exchange were to be enacted, the entitlement areas proposed on
the north portion of Prince of Wales Island (Tongass National Forest, Thorne Bay Ranger
District) coming under the administration of Sealaska would have a negative long-term
social economic impact on Thorne Bay and on Prince of Wales Island, because federal
laws¹ enacted by Congress currently guarantee small communities and their residents a
substantial degree of viable natural resources, community stability, access, commerce,
and subsistence use in the proposed land exchange areas, and

¹ n.b., Organic Act of 1897, 16 U.S.C §528, 530 and 531; 42 U.S.C. §4321 et seq., 40
CFR 1500-1508, Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, Tongass Timber Reform Act
(TTRA) of 1990, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980,
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (as amended), National Forest Management Act
(NFMA) of 1976 (as amended), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and
Management Act of 1996 (as amended), the original Alaska Native Claims Settlement
Act, Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988, and the American Indian Religious Freedom
Act of 1978, as well as other Federal law.

WHEREAS, if this land exchange were to be enacted, Sealaska would not provide any guarantee of these same long-term social and economic benefits to Thorne Bay, or Prince of Wales Island, and

WHEREAS, no portion of the Act provides a thorough study of social economic impacts to communities on Prince of Wales Island such as an environmental impact statement that would discuss the environmental and economic impacts to the human environment of Prince of Wales Island, and Thorne Bay, and

WHEREAS, the Act before Congress pits the social economic interests of a Corporation against, the social economic interests of local, small, Prince of Wales Island communities, such as Thorne Bay, and

WHEREAS, enactment of this proposed Act would put the long-term prosperity of Thorne Bay at risk, while the original Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act would keep these public lands under the administration of the U.S. Forest Service where these public lands may be productive for all citizens of Prince of Wales Island, including shareholders of Sealaska--in perpetuity, and

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay supports the conveyance of Sealaska Corporation's remaining land selections with the existing ANCSA core townships established in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The City of Thorne Bay supports this action because it will best protect community stability, viable natural resources, sustainable forestry, subsistence hunting and fishing, recreation, tourism, and commercial activities for Thorne Bay and Prince of Wales Island residents, and

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay encourages the Federal government to work closely with Sealaska to complete these selections in the near future, and

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay would support those portions of the proposed Act regarding conveyance of Sacred, Cultural, and Historic sites to the appropriate native entities, and

WHEREAS, the original Native Claims Settlement Act, keeps these lands, in our national interest, and

WHEREAS, the original Native Claims Settlement Act, keeps these lands in the interest of Prince of Wales Island, and

WHEREAS, the original Native Claims Settlement Act, keeps these lands in the interest of the City of Thorne Bay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska; **OPPOSES** H.R. 2099 and S. 881 "Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act," as drafted for Congress.

PASSED AND APPROVED June 16, 2009

Robert Hartwell, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Teri Hammons, City Clerk