

achievement would have ended so quickly, but while his tenure on the Kentucky Supreme Court was short, his legacy to Kentucky justice will endure forever.

INTRODUCTION OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I, along with my distinguished colleagues, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, introduce today the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. This legislation will redress the inequitable treatment of the Native Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska—Sealaska Corporation—by allowing it to select its remaining land entitlement under Section 14 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, from designated Federal land in Southeast Alaska.

Congress enacted ANCSA in 1971 to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to the lands that Alaska Natives had used since time immemorial for traditional, cultural, and spiritual purposes. ANCSA allocated 44 million acres and nearly \$1 billion to Alaska's Native people, to be managed by the 12 Regional Corporations, including Sealaska, and more than 200 Village Corporations. While Sealaska is one of the Regional Corporations with the largest number of Native shareholders, with 21 percent of all original Native shareholders, Sealaska received the smallest Regional Corporation land settlement—less than 1 percent of the total of all ANCSA lands.

ANCSA declared that the land settlement “should be accomplished rapidly, with certainty [and] in conformity with the real economic and social needs of [Alaska] Natives . . .” However, after more than 35 years since the passage of ANCSA, Sealaska has still not received conveyance of its full land entitlement. As a result of its small land entitlement, it is critical that Sealaska complete its remaining land entitlement under ANCSA in order to continue to meet the economic, social and cultural needs of its Native shareholders, and of the Native community throughout Alaska.

The Bureau of Land Management projects that Sealaska is entitled to receive between 355,000 and 375,000 acres pursuant to ANCSA. To date, 35+ years after ANCSA's enactment, Sealaska has secured conveyance of 290,000 acres. Accordingly, there are up to 85,000 acres remaining to be conveyed. ANCSA, however, limits Sealaska land selections to withdrawal areas surrounding certain Native villages in Southeast Alaska. The problem is that there are no lands remaining in these withdrawal areas that meet Sealaska's traditional, cultural, historic, or socioeconomic needs, and certain of those lands should more appropriately remain in public ownership. The selection limitations preclude Sealaska from using any of its remaining ANCSA land settlement to select places of sacred, cultural, traditional, and historic significance located outside the withdrawal areas that are critical to facili-

tate the perpetuation and preservation of Alaska Native culture and history. Moreover, selection from the withdrawal areas would not allow Sealaska to meet the purposes of ANCSA—to create continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska. Further, more than 40 percent of the original withdrawal areas are salt water and, therefore, not available for selection.

Despite the small land base in comparison to all other Regional Corporations, Sealaska has provided significant economic benefits to not only Sealaska Native shareholders, but also to the other Native Corporations throughout Alaska. Pursuant to a revenue sharing provision in ANCSA, Sealaska distributes considerable revenues derived from its development of its natural resources—more than \$300 million between 1971 and 2005—to the other Native Corporations. Unless it is allowed to select land outside of the designated withdrawal areas, Sealaska will not be able to select land that would allow it to maintain its existing resource development and management operations, or provide continued economic opportunities for the Native people of Southeast Alaska and economic benefits to the broader Alaska Native community through the revenue sharing requirements under ANCSA.

The legislation presents a solution that would allow Sealaska to complete the conveyance of its land entitlement and enable the Federal Government to complete its statutory obligation to the Natives of Southeast Alaska, as promised under ANCSA. The elements of the legislation include the following:

Sealaska would be authorized to select its remaining ANCSA land entitlement from a pool of land outside the existing withdrawal areas established in ANCSA, a majority of which is on existing forest service roads which has second-growth timber land.

Sealaska would be authorized to use a majority of its remaining entitlement for economic development opportunities that would benefit its shareholders, the Southeast Alaska economy, and Native shareholders throughout Alaska.

The legislation would also allow Sealaska to use a portion of its remaining entitlement for sites with sacred, cultural, traditional, or historic significance and for remote Native Enterprise sites with traditional and recreational use value.

The legislation would allow the lands remaining in the withdrawal areas to remain in public ownership, almost all of which are roadless areas, old-growth timber lands, or land with important public interest value.

I thank my colleagues and urge your support for this important legislation for the Native people of Southeast Alaska.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 17, 2007, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 867, 868, and 869. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on each of these measures.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, according to Darrel Royal, there are only two sports in Texas—football and spring football. In coffee shops, barber shops and even in the beauty salons all across Texas, the talk is all the same—how's the team gonna be this year? It's that time of year, a time that folks in Texas and across the south prepare for all year long. Football in Texas is its own religion, where even your preacher cuts the sermon short on Sundays to get you home in time to watch the game. Nowhere else on earth will you find a culture so wrapped up in football like we are in Texas.

Proud Texans naturally believe everything is bigger and better in Texas—and that's because it is. And like most fathers, I am a proud dad. My son Kurt started playing football when he was 8 years old and I have watched him play every game from pee-wee football in Humble, Texas until he took the field wearing the purple and white of my alma mater, Abilene Christian University.

Throughout school, Kurt played quarterback. Quarterback is one of those positions that is tough on parents—it's all the frame or all the blame. Every time I saw him take the field wearing number 3, I saw that same little 8-year-old boy full of determination. It was that very determination that led to him walking on at ACU and earning a spot as a safety and becoming an Academic All Conference player. With this new position, came a new prayer for the Poe family. The word “interception” took on a whole new meaning for us.

I was a judge during that time and I would head out on Friday nights after court and drive all night to towns such as Kingsville, Canyon, Wichita Falls, Commerce, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ada, Oklahoma, and of course, Abilene, to get there for Saturday's game. There is nothing more fun than being in a stadium on that first crisp fall weekend and seeing your team, and your son, take the field to thousands of college fans chanting: W—I—L—D—C—A—T—S, purple, white, purple, white, fight, fight, fight!

Texas football is that of legend and legacy. It has spawned books, movies, and a TV series. A look into a way of life that is so unique, so Texan. It's the Junction Boys, the Tyler Rose, the last minute touchdown run by Vince Young of Texas against USC in the Rose Bowl National Championship game—I was there by the way with my son Kurt. What a game. What a memory.

Yes, Texans love their football—right down to the names they choose for their children to the cars they buy. I am sure there is some big executive up in Detroit wondering why they have to send so many maroon pickups to Texas. We may not have too many fall weddings on Saturdays, because they conflict with college football, but I am willing to bet that you have been to a wedding where the new Mr. and Mrs. took off down the aisle to the “Eyes of Texas” or got a big “Whoop!” after the preacher declared them husband and wife.

Now I am not one to say that we don't love our Texans and Cowboys. A smile still comes across my face when I think of the Astrodome