

Overview of Efforts to Secure Landless Legislation

Presentation at
Tongass Futures Roundtable
May 16-18, 2011

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ANCSA - 1971

- Five (5) communities left off of list of communities eligible to form corporations.
- Most included on previous drafts of legislation, and left off of final version.
- No explanation of removal.

1974-1977

- Three Landless Communities Appealed to Alaska Native Claims Appeals Board, Department of the Interior
- Haines, Ketchikan, Tenakee
- Board determined “no appeal right” in section 16 of ANCSA, which listed SE Villages.
- Other Villages throughout Alaska have an appeal right.

1978 - 1992

- Five Communities organizing to develop strategy to achieve recognition.
- Initial bills drafted to seek recognition in ANCSA.
- Some communities sought right to disenroll in 5 communities and re-enroll in recognized communities.
- Those enrolled remain at-large shareholders in Sealaska.

1993 Study Directed

- As a result of efforts of the Five Communities, the Congress acted to direct a study on the issue.
- The Institute on Social and Economic Research at the U of A Commissioned.
- Study Released in February 1994 – No difference between included and left out communities; no justification for omission.

103rd Congress (1994)

- Legislation introduced to recognize 5 communities as Village Corporations.
- Secretary Authorized to withdraw land (not to include CSUs, land out of timber base in TLMP).
- Acreage based on Population (Sec. 14(a))
- \$250,000 each.
- Primary Processing Requirement.

105th Congress (1997)

- Recognition of 4 Urban Corporations and 1 Group Corporation.
- \$250,000 each.
- Secretary directed to provide a report to Congress recommending appropriate compensation (land, funding, other)
- Passed out of both committees.
- Committee Approval led to negotiations.

105th Congress, continued

- Landless, Sealaska and Conservation group negotiations.
- Proposed: 1 Corporation; 28,000 acres of commercial forest land (mix of old and 2nd growth); 5,000 acres of cultural, traditional, community sites (no harvest)
- Did not reach agreement; no compromise introduced or pursued further.

106th – 108th Congresses

- No legislation pursued because of Clinton Administration opposition to any impacts on the Tongass National Forest.

109th Congress (2005)

- New House and Senate Bills introduced.
- Recognition of 5 Urban Corporations.
- 1 Township Each
- \$650,000 Each
- Possible additional compensation could be recommended by Secretary of the Interior.
- No Affect on 7(i) or entitlement of other Corporations.

110th Congress (2007)

111th Congress (2009)

- Same Proposal as 109th
 - 5 Urban Corporations; 1 township each
 - \$650,00 each
 - Possible additional compensation
- Only difference in 111th Congress – different bill organization with more headings.

112th Congress (Present)

- Recognition of 5 Urban Corporations
- 1 Township Each
- Right to Establish Settlement Trust
- No Affect on 7(i) or entitlements of other Native corporations.
- No Start-Up Funds (Scoring and Appropriations Issues).

END

- Questions?