

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 522

To resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of the land entitlement of the Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2009

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

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1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Salmon Lake Land
3 Selection Resolution Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) Salmon Lake and the water upstream and
7 downstream from Salmon Lake contain important
8 fisheries resources of significance to Alaska Natives
9 in the Bering Straits Region and other residents of
10 the State of Alaska;

11 (2) certain land adjacent to Salmon Lake on
12 the Seward Peninsula within the Bering Straits Re-
13 gion contains archaeological and cultural resources
14 of significance to Alaska Natives in the Bering
15 Straits Region, other residents of the State, and the
16 citizens of the United States;

17 (3) land adjacent to Salmon Lake on the Sew-
18 ard Peninsula within the Bering Straits Region of-
19 fers, and is suitable for, a variety of recreational ac-
20 tivities;

21 (4) the State of Alaska, acting under the Act
22 of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska
23 Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public
24 Law 85–508), has selected land in the Salmon Lake
25 area under section 6(b) of that Act (72 Stat. 340);

1 (5) the Bering Straits Native Corporation, an
2 Alaska Native Regional Corporation formed under
3 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
4 1601 et seq.), has selected land in the Salmon Lake
5 area under section 14(h)(8) of that Act (43 U.S.C.
6 1613(h)(8));

7 (6) the Bering Straits Native Corporation and
8 the State of Alaska have conflicting selections to cer-
9 tain land in the Salmon Lake area;

10 (7) the Secretary of the Interior, the State, and
11 the Bering Straits Native Corporation have con-
12 cluded that it is in the interest of those parties—

13 (A) to protect and preserve the historical,
14 cultural, and natural resources of the Salmon
15 Lake area;

16 (B) to equitably resolve, without further
17 administrative appeals or litigation, the con-
18 flicting land selections made—

19 (i) by the State under the Act of July
20 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska
21 Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21;
22 Public Law 85–508); and

23 (ii) by the Bering Straits Native Cor-
24 poration in the Salmon Lake area under
25 section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native

1 Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
2 1613(h)(8)); and

3 (C) to provide simultaneously for—

4 (i) continued public ownership, man-
5 agement, use, and access to certain land in
6 the Salmon Lake area;

7 (ii) conveyance to the State of certain
8 land in the Salmon Lake area in partial
9 satisfaction of the entitlement of the State
10 under section 6(a) of the Act of July 7,
11 1958 (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law
12 85–508); and

13 (iii) conveyance to the Bering Straits
14 Native Corporation of certain land in the
15 Salmon Lake area and other areas of the
16 Bering Straits Region in partial satisfac-
17 tion of the land allocation of the Corpora-
18 tion under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska
19 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
20 1613(h)(8)); and

21 (8) legislation is required to ratify the agree-
22 ment among the Secretary of the Interior, the State,
23 and the Bering Straits Native Corporation to resolve
24 the conflicting land selections made by the State and
25 the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ratify
2 the Salmon Lake Area Land Ownership and Consolidation
3 Agreement entered into by the Secretary, the State of
4 Alaska, and the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement”
8 means the document—

9 (A) entitled “Salmon Lake Area Land
10 Ownership and Consolidation Agreement”;

11 (B) executed by the Secretary, the State,
12 and the Bering Straits Native Corporation on
13 July 18, 2007; and

14 (C) on file with—

15 (i) the Department of the Interior;

16 (ii) the Committee on Energy and
17 Natural Resources of the Senate; and

18 (iii) the Committee on Natural Re-
19 sources of the House of Representatives.

20 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
21 the Secretary of the Interior.

22 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
23 of Alaska.

24 **SEC. 4. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.**

25 (a) RATIFICATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves, ratifies,
2 and incorporates by reference the Agreement.

3 (2) CONFLICT.—Subject to valid existing rights,
4 if any term of the Agreement conflicts with any
5 other provision of law, the terms of the Agreement
6 shall control.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may carry out
8 all actions permitted or required under the Agreement.

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