

# Arctic Research, coal for Wainwright supported

## 'Involve us' says Brower

North Slope Borough Mayor Eugene Brower voiced his support for the proposed Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1981 in testimony submitted at a U.S. Senate Government Affairs Committee public hearing held in Fairbanks April 5.

The proposed act, known as Senate Bill 1562, would make Arctic research a national priority.

"While hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested in exploration of the Arctic, in off-shore and on-shore drilling operations, and a new pipeline to move natural gas to the Lower 48, very little is being done in the area of Arctic research," the Mayor testified. "While millions of dollars in oil and gas are being taken out of the Arctic, very little is being returned . . . The North Slope Borough strongly endorsed SB1562 as a measure whose time has come."

While endorsing the bill, the Mayor made several suggestions to strengthen it. One would be a call for more than just for an Arctic research policy.

"We would like to see SB 1562 amended to include language recognizing the need for a broad international Arctic policy. This policy could include issues, such as Native land claims, Arctic tanker operation, oil spill prevention and clean-up standards, wildlife



habitat protection, Native hunting rights and other issues.

These issues, though, must first be addressed by Arctic scientists from every discipline and from each circumpolar nation . . . Developing a National Arctic Research Policy is a good beginning for a National Arctic Policy."

Mayor Brower also wants more local participation in Arctic research policy development. As it stands SB1562 provides for an Arctic Research Council that would develop and implement an Arctic research policy.

The Council would be composed of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Commerce and the Governor of

Alaska as an ex officio member. Native input would only come through an advisory committee serving this council.

"We feel that local participation on an advisory committee is no longer adequate," Mayor Brower's testimony read. "There must be more local involvement because this is our homeland. We will still be here in the Arctic long after the oil and gas resources are gone, and the drilling rigs and pipelines are abandoned . . . SB1562 could be strengthened by requiring North Slope Borough participation in the work of the Arctic Policy Council."

In addition, the Mayor called for the inclusion of an Inuit Circumpolar Conference repre-

sentative on the Arctic Research Council. As he pointed out, representatives of Alaska, Canada and Greenland have been developing Arctic policy through the ICC since Mayor Eben Hopson organized it in 1977.

The Mayor also expressed concern that the funding formula for Arctic research as specified in SB1562 may not be sufficient. This formula would support Arctic research with 1 percent of all revenues received from the lease or sale of Federal lands on the North Slope of Alaska.

Mayor Brower suggested additional funding could come from the oil industry. "Perhaps some way can be found to  
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# Research

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enable the industry to become financially involved. This can be accomplished by earning tax credits for money contributed to the fund, just as current industrial research is subsidized by tax deductible dollars."

The possibility of creating an Arctic Research Center also is raised in SB1562. As a site for consideration, the Mayor suggested re-opening the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL).

The chief sponsor of SB1562 is Alaskan Senator Frank Murkowski. Co-sponsors are Alaska's Sen. Ted Stevens and Washington Sen. "Scoop" Jackson. Presently in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the bill is still open to public comment.

Written comments may be submitted to the Committee at 3306 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 or through Senators Stevens and Murkowski.