

# President signs ANCSA amendments

Alaska Congressman Don Young, joined by Senators Stevens and Murkowski, attended a recent signing ceremony in the Oval Office at the White House for H.R. 402, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act/Hawaiian Homelands bill, when President Clinton signed the bill into law. The bill was authored by Young, who chairs the House Committee on Resources.

"This bill makes a number of technical changes to the ANCSA and the ANILCA to address some of the unresolved land issues which have

arisen since the original passage of these acts," Young said. "I am pleased that we were able to correct the technical issues in ANCSA which will ensure that Native corporations can continue with their business of representing and serving their shareholders to the best of their ability," he added.

"I am extremely pleased that our Congressional Delegation supported these amendments, and worked hard to see that they made it through all of the hurdles in their committees and on the House and Senate floor," Kitka

said from Washington where she is currently meeting with government officials and the delegation on other Alaska matters.

AFN Special Assistant for Lands, Nelson Angapak, who spearheaded the local effort for the past two years to get the amendments through the political process in Washington, said he was happy to see that many months of hard work paid off.

"The AFN Land Committee is to be commended for their diligence," he said.

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The Land Committee provides oversight and direction to the AFN staff on matters related to ANCSA and recommends legislative changes to ANCSA to the AFN Board of Directors.

Specifically, Title One of H.R. 402 adopts and ratifies as a matter of federal law an agreement between Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Montana Creek Native Assn., Inc., and Caswell Native Assn., Inc. which would convey 11,520 acres to each Native association in fulfillment of their ANCSA land selections.

Section 102 amends ANCSA to clarify mining regulatory authority and administration of mining claims

determined to be within lands conveyed to a regional corporation.

Section 103 amends ANCSA and directs the Secretary of the Interior to submit within 18 months a report addressing issues concerning the presence of hazardous substances on lands conveyed or prioritized for conveyance to ANCSA corporations.

Section 104 amends ANCSA to authorize appropriations to provide technical assistance to village corporations so they may implement required reconveyance under the Act.

Section 105 amends ANILCA to allow Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) to select the subsurface estate beneath Native allotments

that are completely surrounded by Kuukpiik Corporation-selected lands within the National Petroleum Reserve.

Section 106 directs the Secretary of the Interior to submit within nine months a report on the number of Vietnam-era veterans who were eligible for but did not receive an allotment under the Act of May 17, 1906 and an assessment of the potential impacts of additional allotments on conservation system units in Alaska.

Section 107 would allow Cook Inlet Region Inc. to transfer to the City of Wrangell the Wrangell Institute, which CIRI originally received in fulfillment of its ANCSA land entitle-

ment, in exchange for property bidding credits.

Section 108 directs the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to reacquire the interests originally conveyed pursuant to a patent of airport land in Shishmaref, Alaska, from the State of Alaska, and then transfer all rights, title and interest to the Shishmaref Native Corporation.

Other provisions include:

- Authorization for Congressional appropriations for land transfers under Section 14 (c) of ANCSA. This part will speed up the process of land conveyances to individuals living in villages.

- A provision that confirms Woody Island near Kodiak as a bonafide Native village.

- A provision that says NOL revenues are not subject to sharing under 7 (i) of the ANCSA.

Title Two of H.R. 402 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to begin negotiations for 1,400 acres of Federal lands to be conveyed to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in exchange for Hawaiian home lands retained by the Federal Government and for compensation for lost use of these lands. This is an authorization only to establish a process for the exchange of lands as authorized in the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act.