

Admiralty Island dispute could be solved by new legislation

WASHINGTON — Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) announced the introduction of legislation which would settle once and for all a dispute surrounding the ownership of lands on Admiralty Island in Southeast Alaska and pave the way for increased diversification of Southeast's economy through long term development of a major mineral prospect at Green's Creek on the island.

Young said "This legislation — which is only an offer of exchange — would allow Shee Atika village corporation to receive lands and other benefits in exchange for their lands on Admiralty Island, which have been tied up in environmental lawsuits since

1980. This is a delicately balanced compromise which, if enacted and accepted by Shee Atika, would also allow the mineral development at Green's Creek to continue for a longer period of time, providing significant employment for the Juneau area. With declining oil revenues, the need for jobs in extractive industries in Southeast is increasingly important, and this bill facilitates the creation of these jobs.

"It is a shame that national environmental groups have tied the hand of the people of Shee Atika so long," Young added.

Hearings will be held early on this legislation.