

Sen. Gravel Questions Secretary Designate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, presented a series of questions on Alaskan issues to Interior Secretary nominee, Stanley K. Hathaway, as the Senate Interior Committee opened hearings Monday on his confirmation.

Gravel asked the former Wyoming governor to respond in writing to questions outlining his views on the Department of Interior's responsibility to Alaska Natives, Indian self-determination, easements on federal lands in advance of conveyance to Alaska Natives of some 44 million acres, the primary corridor study, the routing of a proposed gas pipeline and protection of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, and the role he would see the state government play in the planning process for utilization of federal lands and in decision making about outer continental shelf leasing.

The Alaska lawmaker told the committee "my friends and constituents in Alaska would like an indication of the views and philosophies held by Mr. Hathaway which might reflect the kind of action we might anticipate from him as Interior Secretary."

"Since these questions are detailed and will undoubtedly require research," Gravel said, "I would like to respectfully request that Mr. Hathaway respond in writing for the record of this committee and to me personally

so that I might share his responses with my constituents."

Gravel said the questions he posed reflected a broad cross section of concerns of Alaskans.

He received assurances from Committee Chairman Henry M. Jackson, D-Washington, that Hathaway's response would be made a part of the committee record prior to a vote on his confirmation.