

Huckaby bill, HR 2199, voted to House instead of HR 39

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In what Congressman Don Young called "a major victory for Alaska," the House Interior Committee today voted to report a D-2 lands bill introduced by Congressman Jerry Huckaby of Louisiana to the full House in place of HR 39, the Udall-sponsored bill.

The Huckaby bill, HR 2199, is virtually identical to the Ad Hoc Compromise bill that was worked out late last year.

"The Huckaby bill, HR 2199, is one that all Alaskans can live with," Congressman Young said. "It is a reasonably balanced bill that will enable Alaskans to pursue their traditional way of life. It makes development of

our vast resources possible in most of the state, and in almost all of the most promising areas while providing strict safeguards for the environment."

Congressman Young cautioned, however, that the victory is not complete yet. "The full Committee, after hearing all sides in this issue, expressed its will today by passing the Huckaby bill, a bill that respects the rights and needs of Alaskans, as well as national interests," Congressman Young said. "The extreme environmentalists thought they had the votes to carry the day, but they did not, and a rational bill was passed. But the environmentalists turned out to be sore losers. They have

resorted to cheap parliamentary tricks to try to subvert the expressed will of the majority of Committee members.

"The pro-preservationist members, led by Chairman Udall, are going to try to force through a vote tomorrow to reconsider

the favorable vote on the Huckaby bill. In other words, they are bound and determined to kill it, but it won't work. They did not have the votes today, and they will not have them tomorrow. You can be sure they will be trying to pressure some of

the border-line members, but I think our position is firm."

One Committee staff member said of today's parliamentary maneuvers by Congressman Udall, "the chairman's actions constitute the most flagrant abuse of power I've ever seen in Congress."