

Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

Destructive Delaying Tactics of Congress

It is beginning to seem that the lawmakers in our Congress are out to lay delaying tactics on the road to the implementation of Alaska native claims settlement act. The conservationist bill is one of these.

The Alaska's Native people are becoming very tired of being continually downgraded as far as the knowledge of their lands and animals are concerned. The intent of the conservationist bill is just that—an insult in the first degree of the intelligence of Alaska Native people. The bill seeks to bring back the old standby of the congressmen—the ugly paternalism.

The architects of these legislations should first become knowledgeable about conditions that affect the lives of the Native people, the environment, the land use and the importance of the animals to the people. The bills, such as the conservationist bill and the marine mammal bill, are so fraught with ignorance that they are laughable. They are not the type congressmen should write. They are products of ignorance. They should be voted down forthwith.

In the case of the marine mammal bill, the measure's intent seems to be to ramrod it through Congress. If this is done, the people it will influence most would not have been consulted—as usual. There needs to be more intensive look into it. Many Native people need to be heard because they would know, more than anyone else, how the bill would affect them. Hear them and then decide.

When will people learn!