

# *Letters to the Tundra Times*

## **Monuments**

Chalkyitsik, Alaska 99788  
September 17, 1979

Editor  
Tundra Times  
639 "I" Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Sirs;

I am enclosing a letter which I  
have written to Senator Stevens

which is self-explanatory.

I would hope that you may  
find it reasonable enough as  
coming from one person who  
objects to the National Monu-  
ments as not in the best interests  
of this country and the state of  
Alaska, and will publish it in the  
next edition of your news-  
paper.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,  
William B. Fredson  
Chief  
Chalkyitsik, Alaska

Chalkyitsik, Alaska 99788  
July 30, 1979

Senator Ted Stevens  
260 Old Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

The setting aside of vast acres  
of public land as National Mon-  
uments in the state of Alaska  
just simply is not right in my  
mind and the injustice of it all  
really overwhelms me when I  
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# ● Letters to the Tundra Times

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ask myself this question, "How can supposedly reasonable men give themselves to such action?"

I offer the following statement as my leading comment.

It can reasonably be stated that the authority, as clearly written in the language of the Antiquities Act, under which the National Monuments were established in Alaska by Presidential proclamation has far exceeded the spirit and intent of the law as passed by the United States Congress.

As one having to live with, and under the rules and regulations of these monuments, I come now with the following arguments against the injustice of having these restraints imposed upon me and the other people of Alaska as free citizens of the United States of America.

First and foremost, it is clearly a violation of our basic human rights in the pursuit of our daily subsistence, and the means of our livelihood, to have to live under such restraints.

It can clearly be established that the people most effected by the establishment of these National Monuments have not been informed or consulted prior to such action being taken. Why?

The public lands were and are adequately protected under existing laws and it is a waste of taxpayers money to expend funds for the administration of these monuments.

The action taken in establishing these National Monuments is redundant, in that, it only satisfies a few special interests groups.

The premise for, and which, the National Monuments were established is still "unknown" and is clearly premature.

Given to state of the economy and the energy situation, I contend that these National Monuments are NOT in the best interests of the people of this country, most especially the future generations to come.

I would now like to quote the following from Marcus Aurelius Antoninus:

"Observe constantly that all things take place by change and accustom thyself to consider that the universe loves nothing so much as to change the things which are, and to make new things like them."

I have spoken, Senator Stevens, a small voice out of the wilderness of Alaska urging you, and the other members of Congress, to pass an Alaska Lands Bill that is even-handed and fair to all, and would give the great state of Alaska a chance to grow and provide the things the future generations of Americans will surely need.

Sincerely yours,  
FOR MYSELF  
AND OTHERS

William B. Fredson  
Chief  
Chalkyitsik, Alaska  
99778

## "Be-Reeved"

St. George Island, Alaska 99660  
September 13, 1979

Dear Editor:

Everyone, to be sure, has had their own experiences with the many Airlines within this wonderful State of Alaska. As you know, from your many travels within the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands, that we are serviced solely by Reeve Aleutian Airways, unless of course we could afford two thousand dollars on a chartered aircraft. Well, I would like to share with your many readers an experience I had with RAA in the not to distant past.

August 11, 1979. My wife and I were returning to St. Paul Island after taking a short trip to Kodiak. We arrived in Anchorage in the morning knowing that it may be to late to try to catch that mornings flight to St. Paul, so we tried to make reservations for the next flight which would be on Tuesday the 14th. All of the seats were taken for that day, and as we found out, for Thursday's flight too, so we made our reservations for Saturday August 18.

August 18, 1979. We arrived at the RAA ticket counter with about an hour to spare before departure, which is scheduled for 9:50 sometimes. We checked in our luggage, got our boarding passes and seat assignments, which doesn't mean to much on Reeves.

Since we had so much time to spare, we decided to have breakfast. Just before take-off time, we went to the gate to board the flight back to St. Paul, only to find out that there wasn't any room for us. No seats available. The agents at the gate tried to no avail to get two people to volunteer to remain back in Anchorage until Tuesday, even offering \$200.00 cash to do it. No one volunteered, so we had to stay.

Well, our baggage was on that flight, so they said they would have them sent back from St. Paul and we could pick them up that evening. So here we were. No money. No baggage, and no place to stay. Did they offer us \$200.00 apiece? Did they offer us a place to stay at their expense until Tuesday? Not a word.

Having no cash, our check-book was safely in our luggage, we called my brother and went home with him to calm down. Later that same day I called RAA's ticket counter and asked about the arrival time of that flight from St. Paul.

I also nicely asked if it was the policy of the Airlines to put up passengers that may get bumped involuntarily. "Oh," came the reply. "Didn't anyone help you you with that?" "We will be glad to fix you up right away." Very nice.

But the only problem with that was, when we went to the hotel later that evening to check in, we were told that they had no room for us, and besides, they informed RAA that we could only have the room for one night. So here we were again. 10:00 PM, no place to stay, no money, no baggage.

Finally, after calling the Vice-President of the company at 10:00PM Saturday night, we got a place to stay. He helped us with this, and we are thankful. The only problem was, was that we were given the only room in the other hotel which happened to be right directly above the danceroom-bar. Well, why complain. It was free.

Did I forget to say that we didn't get our luggage on that returning flight? Well, we didn't. Sorry. So, we stayed in Anchorage that whole weekend without any money, or without any change of clothing. That... was uncomfortable.

Tuesday August 21, 1979. Finally we are going home. We once again went through the entire ritual of checking in, getting our boarding passes, and seat assignments. Incidentally, when we were bumped we were told that we would definitely get on this flight, "Even if the President of the United States himself had to be bumped."

Well, at the time that really didn't make much difference. So, we went to the counter. The RAA agent looked at me and said: "Are you Father George?" "Yes." "You almost got me fired!" ooops.

We finally got on the flight, we should have, we were specifically escorted to the airplane. Nice. St. Paul was, to say the least, a welcome sight, especially after flying on the world's most expensive airline and getting that kind of treatment.

Unfortunately, our luggage wasn't there either. I've called RAA several times, and you know how expensive phone calls are today, and guess what?

Today is September 13, 1979, and we still don't have our luggage.

So for all who may have had their experiences with all the

wonderful airlines in Alaska, don't feel to bad. There is always someone else who has it worse. It's just to bad it had to happen to me.

Thank you for listening. If you ever plan to come this way again, I'll be glad to help you with the cost of a charter.

Sincerely yours:

Father George

## Phone Loss

September 14, 1979  
Anchorage

Dear Editor:

On September 13th I was in Juneau and had to make a very important telephone call to Anchorage concerning the Bering Sea and the INPFC manipulations of the salmon allocations to the Japanese. I was informed that the satellite communication link was defective and I would be unable to make the call.

Now I find out that this communication blackout was statewide and that for all practical purposes Alaska did not exist to the rest of the world's communication system during that time. I think that for the satellite link and get assurances that this foul up be rectified so that it does not happen again.

I have also noted that another state newspaper is running articles concerning how the State could spend one billion dollars in windfall profits from the North Slope Oil that is owned

by the Inupiat.

I would like the State administration to ask permission of the Inupiat people to spend these capital gains in putting up their own satellite and video-phone communication system and then issue every citizen an unlimited credit card to make video-phone calls free to any place in Alaska and thus declare the right of all citizens to freely communicate with each other. We should be able to take advantage of the technology that all of us have paid for without going through a communications contractor.

Perhaps the citizens of the urban communities of Alaska can now find common cause with the bush communities who have to suffer the constant indignities of poor service from the communication contractors where interrupted communications is the rule rather than the exception.

Sincerely,  
Hank Ostrosky