

# Galena Comes Out in Support of Stevens Village in TAPS Suit

The Village Council of Galena has come out in support of the Stevens Village law suit against the Trans Alaska Pipeline System.

A small village roughly 300 miles west of Fairbanks on the Yukon River, Galena wrote, "We encourage you to continue this suit and we will support you."

"The issue raised by this case is important to us, as it is to all of the Native People of Alaska."

The suit referred to was filed by five interior villages, including Stevens Village, early in February seeking to bar TAPS from crossing land claimed by the villagers in its construction of an 800-mile pipeline.

The natives claimed that they had a right to withdraw earlier waivers of their land claims be-

cause TAPS had not lived up to its promise to give the natives preferential employment and contract opportunities.

In court TAPS agreed that the native waivers were invalid, but the villages are still suing for \$20 million in damages.

In its resolution, the Galena Council wrote, "We must make sure that when our land is developed that we will share in the benefits of that development. When you, the people of Stevens Village, along with other villages, sue TAPS to live up to its agreement to let Native People bid on the work, or not to use Native land, you are protecting the interests of all the Native People of Alaska."

(Continued on page 6)

# GALENA . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The resolution was signed by President Alfred R. Evans and council members Archie Thurmond, Edgar Nollner, Jr., Emmett W. Evans, Robert Thurmond, Edward Pitka, and C. Demientieff.