

# Urge your support of subsistence on federal lands

On Monday, we received a telegram from Alaska Federation of Natives President Byron Mallott and Phil Smith, director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

The telegram carried the urgent message that rural Alaskans should once again remind Congress that strong language favoring the protection of subsistence resources on Alaska's federal lands *should* be part of a federal (d)(2) land bill now being "marked-up" by the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands. The message read in part:

"Mark-up on d-2 bill in Congress started Wednesday (Jan. 18). Title 7 of bill deals with subsistence and could be taken up next week. Imperative that your views be transmitted to Congress immediately if to be considered at this crucial stage. RurAL CAP and AFN, based on input from regions and villages, have advocated certain principles be written into d-2 subsistence language as follows:

"1. That Congress clearly state its responsibility to protect subsistence options for rural Alaskans.

"2. That Federal oversight be exercised on state resource management.

"3. That authority for management be decentralized to regional and sub-regional levels as condition of permitting State management of Federal land.

"4. That subsistence protection cover all Federal land in Alaska, not just new d-2 parks, etc.

"5. That option of cooperative management is available.

"6. That resource allocation based on subsistence needs be highest priority use of Alaska's natural resources.

"In our opinion, newly proposed Seiberling-Udall amendment for Title 7 specifically meets all these principles and we support it. If you agree with us, strongly urge you immediately inform Chairman John Seiberling of said committee and Congressman Don Young that you support newly proposed Seiberling-Udall amendment on subsistence for Title 7. Telegrams from organizations and individuals should be sent to Congressman John Seiberling, chairman Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands, Capitol Hill, D.C., and also Congressman Don Young, Capitol Hill, D.C.

"If you have any questions please call RurAL CAP (Phil Smith, George Allan, or Mike Holloway, 279-2441) or AFN, Inc. Land Claims (274-3611)."

Enough said.

J.R.R.