

Bethel, Kotzebue slated for 1991 testimony



Sen. Frank Murkowski will again be taking testimony on the proposed legislation to amend ANCSA. Murkowski will be in Kotzebue, March 31, and Bethel, April 2.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Frank Murkowski has announced that he will again be taking testimony in Alaska on the proposed legislation to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to address the “1991” issues.

Murkowski will be in Kotzebue at the Senior Citizen Center on Monday, March 31, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and in Bethel at the VFW club on Wednesday, April 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“Last month we began taking testimony on the legislation in Hoonah and Barrow and I was extremely pleased with the turnout,” Murkowski said. “The large number of individuals who gave testimony showed that Alaskans are truly concerned about these amendments and want their opinions considered. I’m looking forward to continuing this process in Kotzebue and Bethel.”

The purpose of these meetings is to receive comments on the legislation to amend ANCSA to address the 1991 issues. These include stock alienation, dissenters rights and land protection.

Murkowski said that since time is limited, testimony will have to be condensed and limited to five minutes

per witness.

Individuals who want to give testimony should contact Sen. Murkowski’s office in Anchorage at 701 C St., Box 1, 99513, 271-3735; in Fairbanks at 101 12th Ave., Box 7, 99701, 456-0223 or Juneau at the Federal Building, Box 1647, 99802, 586-7400. Copies of the legislation are available through these offices.

Witnesses must sign up in advance of the meeting by no later than close of business Thursday, March 27, and are requested to bring five copies of their testimony to the hearings.

Murkowski said that written comments are also welcome and may be sent to his office at 709 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

A member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Murkowski said the testimony and comments on the workshop will be included in the official committee record on the proposed legislation.

“Alaskans should take the time to educate themselves on ANCSA and these proposed amendments,” he added. “These meetings, and the others to follow, are the first steps toward careful consideration of the 1991 issue.”