

Background on the Alaska Land Use Council Act Draft

The Alaska Land Use Council Act would provide for the establishment of a revised and modernized Alaska Land Use Council (ALUC). The original ALUC was established in title 12 of the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA). The original ALUC sunset in 1990, but the current relationship between the State of Alaska, residents of Alaska, and the federal land management agencies make it clear that a constructive venue at which to discuss land and resource management issues and to facilitate enhanced coordination and cooperation is necessary.

PURPOSE/MISSION

The purpose of ALUC is to improve coordination, efficiency, and cooperation among federal, state, and Alaska Native Corporation and Tribal land managers in addressing land and resource issues in order to fulfill the intent of Congress to balance social, economic, and environmental considerations as required by ANILCA.

Reauthorization of the Council takes into consideration numerous recommendations for improvement that were suggested in the Section 1201 reports to Congress in 1991, as well as recommendations made by Alaska stakeholders and issues raised during the Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the implementation of ANILCA held on December 3, 2015.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Composition: The reauthorized Council will be comprised of the regional heads of four federal land management agencies, the commissioners of four state agencies having land and resource authorities, and two representatives of the ANCSA Regional Corporations and two representatives selected through the Alaska Federation of Natives, at least one of whom represents an Alaska Native tribe. The Council shall meet at least four times a year, and at meetings called by the Chair as necessary.

Presiding Officer: The Presiding Officer of the Council will be annually elected by the Council members at the first meeting of each calendar year, with no term limit or required rotation. This Act eliminates the requirement for State and Federal appointed Co-chairs in order to improve the conduct of meetings and decision-making and decrease the potential for conflicts that reduced effective collaboration of the first iteration of the Council.

Advisory Members: In addition to the permanent members, the Act would provide for a number of advisory members to participate on an ad hoc basis with respect to specific projects or activities of the Council. This allows for the involvement of both state and federal actors whose primary function is not land managers, but who sometimes become involved in land and natural resource management issues.

AUTHORIZATION

This act would authorize \$2,000,000 to be appropriated for the Council to remain available until expended.