

12/7/20

Hi my name is David Beebe I am speaking on behalf of myself. It's been a month now since senator Lisa Murkowski introduced Senate bill 4889 which I see now has a different title and number.

It's now Senate bill 4891. I am hoping that public comments submitted to the subcommittee aren't somehow rendered impertinent because the title and number of the Senate Bill involved is now different.

The latest version, S.4891 - titled, "Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act" is a title regarded by many as offensively misleading. This is because the title contradicts historical facts. Those facts are well documented over the past several decades that ANCSA fully recognized and generously compensated the Natives in these communities.

So at issue here are the usual failures of transparency in legislative process, and in particular, public process.

Public process is important in this legislation in order to fully disclose in public hearings the myriad questions arising from these specific land selections. The proponents of this bill repeatedly claim since several prior failed iterations of the bills have been discussed, there is no need to understand the specific contents of the current legislative version.

I respectfully disagree.

Now that we know **where** the selections are, it follows that questions of who made the selections; precisely why they were selected, and for what purposes? And last but not least, how much in the way of taxpayer money gets transferred to 5 new corporate entities that would be established in Southeast?

As of today the Congressional Budget Office reports the Cost Estimate for this legislation has not been received. Given the amount of public infrastructure certainly measured in the tens of millions of dollars in these land selections, it would be good to know what the taxpayer has forfeited to these five brand new native corporations should this bill pass.

With S.4891, Senator Murkowski further expands the 70,000 acres of the Sealaska Legislation and imposes more than

115,000 more acres for her corporate privatization agenda on the Tongass National Forest. The timing could not be worse as we face the legacy of a century of devastation of entire watersheds stripped of their forests exported in the round, to China, Japan and beyond. This reduces the quality of life of our rural residents to colonial laborers on multinational tree plantations.

The last several years of failed wild salmon runs, and extreme weather events are further evidence of catastrophic climate disruption we were warned about.

These are evident both as record breaking summer droughts imperiling municipal power and water supplies. The sequential atmospheric rivers of the past month alone have resulted in the recent massive landslides all over Southeast with incalculable losses of life, private property and both natural capital and public infrastructure.

Also we need to understand ANCSA's model of multinational corporate privatization of public lands and resources include environmental deregulation.

The unsustainable corporate asset stripping of the most biologically valuable and at-risk watersheds of the Tongass National Forest, are at the center of our present unfolding ecological crisis in Southeast. S. 4891 will only exacerbate and accelerate our regional ecological and social collapse.

In conclusion, the 49 year history of ANCSA in Southeast Alaska speaks for itself as the final act of post-genocidal assimilation of Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida cultures of Southeast Alaska.

Please recognize the social, cultural, and environmental harms this legislation will further unleash.