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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

January 25, 2012

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
United States House Subcommittee on Indian
and Alaska Native Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Boren
Ranking Member
United States House Subcommittee on Indian
and Alaska Native Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Salmon Lake Land Selection Resolution Act (S. 292)

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Boren,

I wish to provide the following comments on S. 292, the Salmon Lake Land Selection Resolution Act, for the subcommittee's hearing on January 25, 2012. My administration commends the subcommittee for considering S. 292 and supports passage of this important legislation.

S. 292 would equitably resolve competing land selections surrounding Salmon Lake on the Seward Peninsula. The bill proposes to ratify an agreement between the Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC), the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the State of Alaska concerning land selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska Statehood Act. On July 18, 2007, the three parties signed the agreement after several years of negotiation. Since that time, the parties have approved an extension of the agreement.

Under the proposed measure, BSNC and the State of Alaska will acquire land adjacent to Salmon Lake. BLM will retain land important for public access and a campground. The agreement recognizes both the lake's value to BSNC shareholders for subsistence, cultural, and recreational values, as well as its importance to the public for recreation. I am not aware of any opposition to this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on S. 292. I respectfully request that this letter be included in the hearing record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell
Governor

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cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Mark Begich, United States Senate
The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman, United States House Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Edward Markey, Ranking Member, United States House Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary, United States Department of the Interior
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Henry Ivanoff, Chairman, Bering Straits Native Corporation
Kip Knudson, Director of State/Federal Relations, Office of the Governor