

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON

# NATURAL RESOURCES

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## H.R. 218

### “KING COVE LAND EXCHANGE ACT”

Introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), H.R. 218 authorizes a land exchange between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Alaska to construct a one lane, non-commercial gravel road connecting the isolated City of King Cove to a modern, all-weather airport with access to emergency medical services and hospitals.

#### **PROVIDES ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR KING COVE RESIDENTS**

H.R. 218 creates a reliable, life-saving transportation route for King Cove residents. Harsh weather conditions routinely ground planes and prohibit sea travel, isolating nearly 1,000 residents in the remote community of King Cove, Alaska from critical access to Cold Bay, Alaska, which is the site of a larger airport that is able to provide much safer evacuations to hospitals and other emergency services.

#### **PREVENTS DANGEROUS ACCIDENTS AND UNNECESSARY DEATHS**

In the past three years, 55 people have been medically evacuated from King Cove and since the creation of the Izembek refuge, a total of 19 people have died in plane crashes or waiting to be medically evacuated to nearby hospitals.

#### **BUILDS ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

19 miles of the 30 miles road already exist, requiring minimal new construction for the short road. The land required for the road makes up only 0.06 percent of the total land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.

#### **CREATES UP TO 40,000 ACRES OF NEW WILDERNESS**

In exchange for just 206 acres to construct the simple road, the State of Alaska will transfer up to 43,093 acres of land to be included in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness under a fair market value exchange.

#### **SUPPORTED BY A BROAD COALITION OF ALASKANS**

H.R. 218 is supported by the entire Alaskan Congressional delegation, Governor Bill Walker (I-AK), the residents of King Cove, Alaska, the Alaskan State Legislature, the Agdaagux Tribal Council and the National Congress of American Indians.



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