

BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council
C/O BLM Alaska State Offices
222 W 7th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99513

August 22, 2018

Honorable Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Dan Sullivan
702 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Representative Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan and Representative Young;

The Alaska Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Council (RAC) sends our thanks to you, the members of Alaska's Congressional delegation, for your continued support of the public process that makes Resource Advisory Councils a useful tool for the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska. At our recent August 14 & 15th RAC meeting, the body unanimously approved the attached resolution concerning funding needed to complete BLM Alaska's conveyance responsibilities. Alaska is the only state in the union that has not completed its required conveyances of private land.

There are some states that have held back some conveyances for the state, but all private lands are completely conveyed, unlike in Alaska. The Alaska BLM RAC urges support for increased and steady funding to complete this critical task in Alaska.

The BLM has 38 million additional acres of land to convey including 260 native allotments – private property in a pending state. If the funding isn't increased and continued, we estimate it will take at least 50 years to complete the conveyances. On behalf of private land claimants and to ensure personal allotments are conveyed to move our state forward, conveyances need to be completed sooner than later.

On behalf of the Alaska BLM RAC, thank you for paying attention and resolving this matter concerning BLM's capacity to accomplish conveyances. If you need further information or have questions, please contact me at 907-290-9017. The BLM RAC would be happy to talk with you about this matter and welcome you or your staff's attendance at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Martin
Alaska BLM RAC Chair

BLM Alaska RAC
Resolution 18-01

**BLM ALASKA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AND STEADY FUNDING TO COMPLETE
THE LAND CONVEYANCES REQUIRED BY THE ALASKA NATIVE
ALLOTMENT ACT, THE ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT,
AND THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT**

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Secretary of the Interior's designated survey and land transfer agent; and

WHEREAS, the BLM's Alaska Land Transfer program administers the transfer of lands under the Alaska Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA); and

WHEREAS, the Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and ANCSA require the Federal government to convey more than 150 million acres of land to state and private ownership; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (ALTAA) was enacted in 2004 to finalize the conveyance of those lands; and

WHEREAS, the ALTAA provides that the conveyances were to be completed by 2009; and

WHEREAS, the ALTAA authorizes "to be appropriated such funds as are necessary to carry out the purposes of the Act;" and

WHEREAS, the BLM is required to convey and/or patent more than 8 million additional acres of land to complete its obligation under ANCSA; and

WHEREAS, the BLM is required to convey and/or patent more than 38 million additional acres of land to complete its obligation under the Alaska Statehood Act; and

WHEREAS, the BLM has 260 Native Allotment Applications pending adjudication under the Native Allotment Act; and

WHEREAS, without an increase and steady funding, it is estimated that it will take an additional 50 years to complete the required land transfers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council that the BLM Alaska Resource Advisory Council supports prioritized increased and steady funding, in FY 2019 and subsequent years to complete the conveyances required by the Native Allotment Act, the Alaska Statehood Act, and ANCSA.

Voted on August 15, 2018 in 10 favor of and 0 oppose.