



UPDATE ON **LANDLESS LEGISLATION**

SENATE BILL 872 & HOUSE BILL 2836

U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan recently introduced the “Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act” (S. 872). U.S. Representative Don Young also introduced a companion bill (H.R. 2836). These bills authorize the creation of urban corporations for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell, and provide for the conveyance of 23,040 acres of land to each of the corporations.

The five Native communities were excluded from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) even though shareholders enrolled to the communities. The communities have formed a coalition to serve as an umbrella organization along with nonprofit organizations for each community for the effort. Sealaska fully supports this legislation and the coalition of the five landless communities to finalize a just land entitlement.

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) from University of Alaska conducted studies that concluded the five communities were similar to other Native communities that were included in ANCSA and therefore could have been created as corporations under ANCSA. Sealaska has spent considerable time, financial resources and effort to help the five communities secure land.

LANDLESS COMMUNITIES

- Haines
- Ketchikan
- Petersburg
- Tenakee
- Wrangell

QUICK FACTS

- Sealaska supports the coalition of the five landless communities to finalize a just land entitlement.
- By the end of 2014, Sealaska spent more than \$1 million in an effort to help the five communities secure land.
- As champion of securing lands, Sealaska will share knowledge and expertise.

Section 3: Amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to authorize the establishment of five additional Urban Corporations for the villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell. This act will not impact the entitlement of other Native Corporations established in ANCSA.

Section 4: Shareholder Eligibility. Those individual Natives who enrolled to the five villages during the original enrollment process would be eligible to enroll in the newly established corporations. If original shares have been inherited from an individual who was enrolled in one of the five communities, the individual who inherited the shares would receive an identical number of shares in the new corporation.