

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1070
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3576
PHONE: (907) 269-8600
FAX: (907) 269-8904

January 21, 2005

The Honorable Tom Wagoner
State Senate
State Capitol,
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Support for SB 55

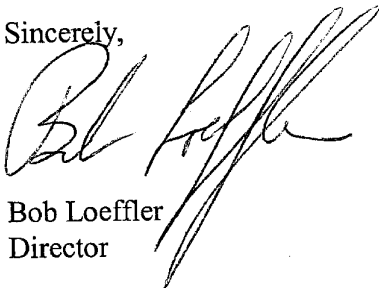
Dear Senator Wagoner:

I am writing to provide my support for SB 55. The Bill is essentially identical to SB 167, introduced by Senator Torgerson in 2001. The bill would enable anyone meeting the law's conditions, to purchase the state retained interests in property originally sold by the department as agricultural interest only lands. After review, it appears that there are few, if any, individuals other than the Miller Family would qualify.

The department reviewed that particular situation and determined that there is no compelling state interest in retaining the remaining interests in this small parcel of land. However, without SB 55 the department has no authority to convey the remaining interests in these properties. We support the bill. It would have no negative affect on the state interest and would help an Alaskan family gain equity in land they have used for many years.

If you need more information or would like to discuss this further, please call me at 269-8600 or Janet Burleson at 465-4730.

Sincerely,



Bob Loeffler
Director

Cc: Commissioner Tom Irwin
Special Assistant Janet Burleson

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

The Honorable Thomas Wagoner
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wagoner,

Amy asked for a statement of support for SB 55. We appreciate your efforts on getting this "problem" resolved. Many thanks.

Sincerely, Frank

Statement of support for SB 55

We certainly support SB 55. This bill would give us the opportunity to purchase the remaining interest in a 15 acre parcel of land that we own in Hope, which is classified as agricultural rights only. Originally, the parcel was leased from the US Forest Service in the mid 1950's by my parents, Ross and Alma Miller. They wished to obtain those roughly 15 acres as a settlement for land "lost" after the 1964 Earthquake. Because of some errors and omissions by the State of Alaska, their request got lost. After a lengthy period of examination, they were given the option to purchase only ag rights to the 15 acres. At that time, it appeared the State had no interest in that parcel remaining agricultural only, which is still the case today. Being able to purchase full title to this parcel would solve the problems related to the agricultural restrictions and make the land much more usable to us.

Frank L Miller



PO Box 39083
Ninilchik AK 99639

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