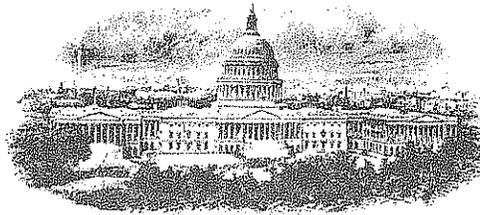


DON YOUNG
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
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COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 19, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President

I applaud your leadership on the issue of nuclear energy and am hopeful that you will continue to do all that is possible to bring this vital resource into the national energy portfolio. I hope you will stand up to the extreme environmental community who oppose all forms of nuclear energy and would like to see portions of Western America and all of Alaska turned into national monuments and parks.

On that note, it has come to my attention that your Administration has circulated an internal memo detailing an attempt to circumvent Congress and declare Conservation Designations around the country, including in Alaska. Specifically, the leaked memo which is attached, lists Bristol Bay Region and Teshekpuk Lake as Conservation Designations.

I am concerned that your Administration is attempting to bypass Congress and the State of Alaska to stop future resource development. In fact, the memo states "Bristol Bay is threatened by proposed open pit gold mining which would forever alter this pristine and delicate watershed." I'm not arguing for or against developing resources in Bristol Bay, rather I want to emphasize the importance of allowing the public process to play out without undue and unnecessary interference. This appears to be a political move to satisfy angry environmentalists and I am hopeful that this memo was being circulated at the staff level and you had no knowledge of it. Please inform me of the nature of this memo and whether it was an actual proposal.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), specifically 16 USC 3213, expressly forbids the Administration from even studying Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the purpose of considering the establishment of a conservation system unit, national conservation area, national recreation area, or anything similar unless authorized by a joint resolution of approval from Congress.

I urge you to give full consideration to the legislation on this issue and avoid bypassing the Congress. In these days, it is more important than ever, that we restore the checks and balance within our government to restore the public's trust. Alaskans, with the input of the proper local, state, and federal officials will decide what Alaska's future will be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Young", written over the typed name and title.

DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska

Enclosure
cc: Secretary Salazar