## THE "SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION AND JOBS PROTECTION ACT", AS REINTRODUCED, WILL RESOLVE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CONCERNS

Congressman Young is prepared to reintroduce legislation that will authorize Sealaska, the regional Alaska Native Corporation for Southeast Alaska, to finalize its 40-year old land settlement due under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 by selecting Native lands from within a designated pool of land in Southeast Alaska.

To address federal, state and local community concerns, Congressman Young is committed to reintroducing legislation that:

- drops lands proposed for conveyance to Sealaska on northeastern Prince of Wales Island near Red Bay, and incorporates new lands into the pool of lands that would be available to Sealaska for Native selections – all new lands identified in the legislation are to be added solely on the basis of meetings with communities and other stakeholders in Southeast Alaska;
- revises language that allows Native Corporations to work with the Secretary of Agriculture under the Tribal Forest Protection Act to address fire hazards and spruce bark beetle infestations that threaten the health of Native forestland, and language that allows Native Corporations, as owners of Indian cemetery sites and historical places in Alaska, to work with the Secretary of the Interior to secure support under the National Historic Preservation Act to manage their own historic sites and programs – our revised bill language clarifies that these amendments do not create Indian country and do not validate, invalidate, or otherwise affect any claim regarding the existence of Indian country in Alaska;
- clarifies that the conveyance of Native sacred sites is subject to the criteria and procedures applicable to the selection of sacred sites under ANCSA;
- amends the bill to protect local guide permits on lands that would be conveyed to Sealaska;
- provides that the conveyances of smaller parcels (also called Native future sites), which are subject to significant development restrictions, are further subject to an easement for public access across such lands in addition to public access easements that would be granted under Section 17(b) of ANCSA;
- provides that Native sacred sites could be conveyed subject to an easement for public access across such lands where there is "no reasonable alternative" access, a provision that also provides public access rights in addition to the public easements that would be available under Section 17(b) of ANCSA;
- clarifies that any "site improvement" on any sacred site selected by Sealaska (for example, construction of a traditional longhouse or an access trail) must not be inconsistent with management plans for adjacent public lands; and
- provides that the Bureau of Land Management shall have additional time to convey ANCSA lands to Sealaska.