



Recent SE survey shows Sealaska land bill aligned with community priorities
Southeast residents cite job creation and renewable energy as top priorities

Juneau, Alaska—In December 2009 Sealaska commissioned an opinion survey of 600 Southeast Alaska residents. The purpose was to develop a statistically valid sampling of the residents' values and beliefs, including their awareness of S. 881 the *Haa Aaní* land bill.

According to the survey, Southeast residents support *Haa Aaní*, and support for the legislation increases as respondents learn more about it. Among all respondents, 55% support the legislation. Subgroup analysis revealed stronger support among those who were aware of the legislation prior to being provided a neutral description of it—63 percent of these respondents supported the land legislation. In addition, key highlights include:

- The highest 10-year community goals among Southeast residents are jobs and the economy, and creating more renewable energy sources. Nearly eight in ten residents say their top urgent or high community goal is creating jobs and improving the economy.
- Majority of SE residents seek a balance for the Tongass: 87% said that the management of the Tongass National Forest needs to be balanced between providing jobs and protecting fish and habitat.

Community outreach for the Sealaska land bill

The recent survey is one component of Sealaska's multi-year effort to better understand the priorities of Southeast and ensure that the land legislation aligns with those priorities. To date, over 200 stakeholder meetings have been held around the region, and during the last two days, the CEOs of the Regional Alaska Native Corporations along with Alaska Federation of Natives have met at Sealaska in Juneau. Both the regional CEOs and AFN strongly support passage of the legislation.

Sealaska's land legislation: in alignment with the priorities of Southeast

Under current law, much of the land available for Sealaska's land selection is in inventoried roadless areas, intact watersheds, municipal watersheds, and high value fish and wildlife habitat important for subsistence resources and to commercial fisheries. Sealaska agrees with many members of the conservation community that these lands are better suited for public ownership. The *Haa Aaní* land bill will allow Sealaska to select land outside these federally mandated withdrawal areas, and fulfill our final entitlement of 85,000 acres--no more land than what is originally owned to us under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

- More than 70% of the acres identified in the bill are roaded. The bill provides for protection of old growth forest and unprecedented land access.
- *Haa Aaní* also creates economically sustainable "Native Futures" sites—areas that will extend the 120-day visitor season by creating new non-extractive business enterprise such as eco-tourism, natural history, cultural research, education and teaching Native arts and crafts in a natural setting.

Learn more about the *Haa Aaní* legislation at www.sealaska.com.

Sealaska, a Growing Tradition

Sealaska has strengthened business with culture since 1972. We are a Native corporation owned by more than 20,000 tribal member shareholders and guided by our traditions of environmental stewardship and positively impacting our communities. Learn more at www.sealaska.com

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