

NEWS RELEASE

MIKE GRAVEL

U.S. Senator-Alaska

APRIL 17, 1980
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GRAVEL OUTLINES D-2 AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON -- SEN. MIKE GRAVEL TODAY OUTLINED THE THREE AMENDMENTS HE PLANS TO OFFER DURING SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE ALASKA LANDS BILL.

UNDER A TIME AGREEMENT ON SENATE DEBATE WORKED OUT BY GRAVEL AND OTHERS, THE D-2 ISSUE CAN BE TAKEN UP IN THE SENATE AFTER THE JULY 4 RECESS. BOTH GRAVEL AND SEN. TED STEVENS, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, MAY OFFER THREE AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE-PASSED LEGISLATION.

"OUR SIX AMENDMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A BLOCK," GRAVEL SAID IN ANNOUNCING THE THREE HE PLANS TO OFFER. "BOTH SENATOR STEVENS AND MYSELF HAVE BEEN COORDINATING WITH THE STATE AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE BILL TO MAKE SURE WE COVER ALL OUR BASES AMONG THE SIX AMENDMENTS WE HAVE."

AMENDMENTS WERE TO HAVE BEEN FINALIZED TODAY, BUT THE DEADLINE WAS PUSHED BACK. NEVERTHELESS, GRAVEL SAID, HE WAS PREPARED TO OUTLINE WHAT HE WOULD OFFER.

THE THREE AMENDMENTS ARE AIMED AT EXTENDING SPORT HUNTING RIGHTS IN THE AREAS WITHDRAWN UNDER THE SENATE BILL; GUARANTEEING VALID EXISTING CLAIMS FOR MINERS AND IMPROVING ACCESS LANGUAGE IN THE SENATE BILL; AND CORRECTING PROBLEMS INVOLVING SUBMERGED LANDS IN THE CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO NATIVES. THE SUBMERGED LANDS AMENDMENT HAS WON STATE, ADMINISTRATION AND NATIVE BACKING AND IS CONSIDERED

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GRAVEL D-2 AMENDMENTS - ADD ONE

NON-CONTROVERSIAL. NEVERTHELESS, GRAVEL SAID, "THE AMENDMENT IS CRUCIAL TO A FAIR SETTLEMENT OF THE LAND CLAIMS, AS ALREADY PROMISED IN THE ANCSA LAW."

SUMMARIES OF THE AMENDMENTS:

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