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TSONGAS TO INTRODUCE ALASKA LANDS COMPROMISE

Senator Paul Tsongas will introduce a compromise substitute to H.R. 39, the Alaska Lands Conservation Bill recently reported by the Senate Energy Committee. According to Tsongas, the compromise will contain provisions of the House-passed Udall-Anderson bill as well as portions of the Energy Committee bill and recommendations of the administration.

In a letter to his Senate colleagues last evening announcing the compromise, Tsongas commended the work of the Energy Committee on H.R. 39 and Alaska Senators Stevens and Gravel.

"However," Tsongas wrote, "I did not and cannot endorse the Energy Committee bill as reported. The bill tilts too far toward parochial Alaska interests, mining, oil, gas and timber development and other special interests."

"The predominant national interest in preserving federally-owned wild lands in Alaska is inadequately addressed. The Committee's bill does not balance the protection of prime park refuge and wilderness lands such as the Gates of the Arctic, Yukon Flats, Admiralty Island, the Arctic National Wildlife Range, Wrangell-St. Elias and West Chichagof Island, with the state and national interest in natural resource development."

The substitute includes a number of significant provisions adopted by the Senate Energy Committee this year regarding:

- *Revocation of existing monuments
- *U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation and the Molybdenum deposit at Quartz Hill
- *Alaska's role in management at fish and game
- *Access to inholdings
- *Bristol Bay-Iliamna lands and cooperative management

Tsongas said that his compromise is a "reasonable, balanced measure which reflects many of the compromises reached to date, has the support of the environmental community, and resolves many of the issues which make the Committee version unacceptable to the Administration."

The Tsongas substitute will be introduced late this afternoon.