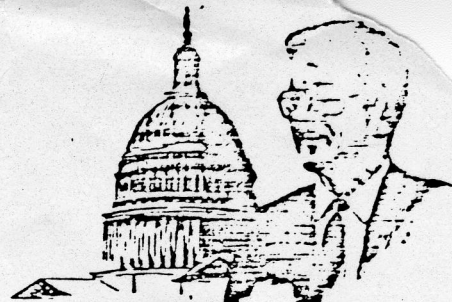


Ted Stevens

United States Senator For Alaska



February 29, 1980
For immediate release

FOLLOWING STATEMENT FROM SENATOR TED STEVENS IS IN
REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY TO
NAME THE ARCTIC WILDLIFE RANGE AFTER JUSTICE DOUGLAS

"The President's action to name the Arctic Wildlife Range after Justice William O. Douglas is a surprise and a disappointment. I have been involved in a long-standing campaign in Congress to name this Alaskan refuge after former Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton, the man responsible for its designation more than 20 years ago.

The President's action is an affront to all of us who knew Fred Seaton and his dedication to the protection of Alaska's wildlife. Fred was also a leading advocate for Alaska's statehood, and if the range was to be named after anyone it should have been named after Fred Seaton.

Senator Zorinsky, Congresswoman Smith, and former Senator Curtis are among many national leaders involved in a bipartisan effort to honor Fred's record in wildlife protection by naming the Arctic Wildlife Range after him. In the early 70's I introduced legislation to accomplish this, and during the past three years of consideration of the Alaska lands legislation, we have explored the possibility of honoring Fred in this fashion. We were asked not to push for the renaming of the refuge because it violated a policy of not naming major areas such as the Arctic Wildlife Range after individuals.

In light of this, I am particularly dismayed that the President has acted unilaterally without consulting those of us involved. As a conservationist Justice Douglas was identified with areas such as the C&O Canal and the North Cascades National Park, but clearly Fred Seaton was the man responsible for the establishment of the Arctic Wildlife Range."