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January 3, 2013

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Ms. Sue Masica
Regional Director
National Park Service
240 West 5th Avenue, # 114
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2327

Dear Regional Director Masica,

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently in the midst of holding public hearings in Alaska to get feedback from Alaskans on the agency's planned changes to state hunting regulations for 2013. It deeply troubles me that the federal government is overreaching and interfering with the state's lawful right to manage its wildlife within Alaska's borders, and moreover, I am alarmed by both the substance of the NPS' proposed changes and by the manner in which this public hearings process is playing out.

Momentarily putting aside the details of the NPS planned changes to the state's hunting regulations, I am skeptical that this kind of agency action is even valid. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), in Section 1314, states:

Nothing in this Act is intended to enlarge or diminish the responsibility and authority of the State of Alaska for management of fish and wildlife on the public lands except as may be provided in title VIII of this Act, or to amend the Alaska constitution.

ANILCA very clearly grants the State, not the NPS, the ability to manage its own fish and wildlife populations, including regulating harvests and other issues. Yet, in both the news releases concerning these proposed changes and in communications with the State of Alaska, the NPS has made it clear they believe the NPS Organic Act of 1916, coupled with other parts of ANILCA, gives each individual superintendent the authority to make these sorts of hunting closures whenever they believe it necessary. That sort of declaration is far-reaching and the implications are unacceptable for the State and Alaskans. The Alaska Board of Game conducted extensive background before proposing the revised hunting regulations, and while the NPS or an individual National Preserve superintendent or I may or may not agree with such a decision, it does not justify the federal government overruling and overreaching.

Equally troubling to me is the way in which the public hearings process is being treated by the Service. While I appreciate the NPS holding public hearings in several locales in Alaska in both December and into the New Year, I echo the concerns both state departments have already raised in their own letters to the Service. Namely, the realistic access for Alaskans to attend these hearings in the middle of the winter is not realistic at all. Too many Alaskans that will be

impacted by the 2013 compendiums simply aren't going to have a chance in this process to voice their concerns and that does not sit well with me.

I am unconvinced the Service has the right to be imposing their will on the State's hunting regulations at all. Alaskans absolutely need to have a fair and realistic opportunity to be heard. I would hope you agree with me on that, and I would hope we can work together to quickly alter the current compendiums timeline and make sure Alaskans are treated fairly.

I look forward to your prompt reply

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator