

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2011

Secretary Ken Salazar
The Honorable Secretary of The Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

This past Friday, E&E reported on your speech to the Wilderness Society's annual awards ceremony regarding the creation of new wilderness area. In the article in the context of new wilderness areas, you are quoted as saying, "We look forward to additional administrative action on Bristol Bay."

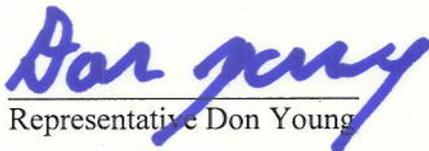
A week and a half ago, we discussed the Department of Interior stepping back from the Wild Land Policy. From our conversation and the DOI press release on the subject, it was our understanding that you would only consider wilderness designations in states where there was strong support from its delegation and residents.

We believe you already understand this, but we want to be unequivocally clear. There is no support from the Alaska Delegation or the State of Alaska for any new legislative or administrative wilderness designations.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 101(d), is known as the "No More" clause. It says in part ". . . Congress believes that the need for future legislation designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas or new national recreation areas has been obviated." Further, Section 1326 of ANILCA explicitly provides that the Administration cannot even conduct studies for the designation of additional Alaskan wilderness "or for related or similar purposes." This is the law of the land and we take it very seriously.

We were encouraged by your commitment not to pursue wilderness designations in Alaska and will continue to rely on it. We believe you understand that we would do everything in our power to oppose any departure from this commitment.

Sincerely,


Representative Don Young


Senator Lisa Murkowski


Senator Mark Begich