

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3231

To provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 2021

Mr. YOUNG introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Unrecognized South-
5 east Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Com-
6 pensation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to redress the omission
3 of the southeastern Alaska communities of Haines, Ketch-
4 ican, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell from eligibility
5 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43
6 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) by authorizing the Alaska Natives
7 enrolled in the communities—

8 (1) to form Urban Corporations for the commu-
9 nities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee,
10 and Wrangell under the Alaska Native Claims Set-
11 tlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

12 (2) to receive certain settlement land pursuant
13 to that Act.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL NATIVE COR-**
15 **PORATIONS.**

16 Section 16 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
17 Act (43 U.S.C. 1615) is amended by adding at the end
18 the following:

19 “(e) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCHIKAN, PE-
20 TERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL, ALASKA.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Native residents of
22 each of the Native Villages of Haines, Ketchikan,
23 Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, Alaska, may or-
24 ganize as Urban Corporations.

25 “(2) EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT TO LAND.—
26 Nothing in this subsection affects any entitlement to

1 land of any Native Corporation established before
2 the date of enactment of this subsection pursuant to
3 this Act or any other provision of law.”.

4 **SEC. 4. SHAREHOLDER ELIGIBILITY.**

5 Section 8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
6 (43 U.S.C. 1607) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(d) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCHIKAN,
9 PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enroll
11 to each of the Urban Corporations for Haines,
12 Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell those
13 individual Natives who enrolled under this Act to the
14 Native Villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg,
15 Tenakee, or Wrangell, respectively.

16 “(2) NUMBER OF SHARES.—Each Native who
17 is enrolled to an Urban Corporation for Haines,
18 Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell pursu-
19 ant to paragraph (1) and who was enrolled as a
20 shareholder of the Regional Corporation for South-
21 east Alaska shall receive 100 shares of Settlement
22 Common Stock in the respective Urban Corporation.

23 “(3) NATIVES RECEIVING SHARES THROUGH IN-
24 HERITANCE.—If a Native received shares of stock in
25 the Regional Corporation for Southeast Alaska

1 through inheritance from a decedent Native who
 2 originally enrolled to the Native Village of Haines,
 3 Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or Wrangell and
 4 the decedent Native was not a shareholder in a Vil-
 5 lage Corporation or Urban Corporation, the Native
 6 shall receive the identical number of shares of Settle-
 7 ment Common Stock in the Urban Corporation for
 8 Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, or
 9 Wrangell as the number of shares inherited by that
 10 Native from the decedent Native who would have
 11 been eligible to be enrolled to the respective Urban
 12 Corporation.

13 “(4) EFFECT ON ENTITLEMENT TO LAND.—
 14 Nothing in this subsection affects entitlement to
 15 land of any Regional Corporation pursuant to sec-
 16 tion 12(b) or 14(h)(8).”.

17 **SEC. 5. DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS.**

18 Section 7 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
 19 (43 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (j)—

21 (A) in the third sentence, by striking “In
 22 the case” and inserting the following:

23 “(3) THIRTEENTH REGIONAL CORPORATION.—
 24 In the case”;

1 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
2 “Not less” and inserting the following:

3 “(2) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Not less”;

4 (C) by striking “(j) During” and inserting
5 the following:

6 “(j) DISTRIBUTION OF CORPORATE FUNDS AND
7 OTHER NET INCOME.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During”; and

9 (D) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) NATIVE VILLAGES OF HAINES, KETCH-
11 IKAN, PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.—
12 Native members of the Native Villages of Haines,
13 Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell who
14 become shareholders in an Urban Corporation for
15 such a Native Village shall continue to be eligible to
16 receive distributions under this subsection as at-
17 large shareholders of the Regional Corporation for
18 Southeast Alaska.”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(s) EFFECT OF AMENDATORY ACT.—The Unrecog-
21 nized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition
22 and Compensation Act and the amendments made by that
23 Act shall not affect—

1 “(1) the ratio for determination of revenue dis-
 2 tribution among Native Corporations under this sec-
 3 tion; or

4 “(2) the settlement agreement among Regional
 5 Corporations or Village Corporations or other provi-
 6 sions of subsection (i) or (j).”.

7 **SEC. 6. COMPENSATION.**

8 The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
 9 1601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 10 lowing:

11 **“SEC. 43. URBAN CORPORATIONS FOR HAINES, KETCHIKAN,**
 12 **PETERSBURG, TENAKEE, AND WRANGELL.**

13 “(a) DEFINITION OF URBAN CORPORATION.—In this
 14 section, the term ‘Urban Corporation’ means each of the
 15 Urban Corporations for Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg,
 16 Tenakee, and Wrangell.

17 “(b) CONVEYANCES OF LAND.—

18 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—

19 “(A) CONVEYANCES TO URBAN CORPORA-
 20 TIONS.—Subject to valid existing rights and
 21 paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), the Secretary
 22 shall convey—

23 “(i) to the Urban Corporation for
 24 Haines, the surface estate in 12 parcels of
 25 Federal land comprising approximately

23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Haines Selections’, numbered 1 and 2, and dated February 19, 2021;

“(ii) to the Urban Corporation for Ketchikan, the surface estate in 9 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Ketchikan Selections’, numbered 1 through 4, and dated February 19, 2021;

“(iii) to the Urban Corporation for Petersburg, the surface estate in 12 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Petersburg Selections’, numbered 1 through 3, and dated February 19, 2021;

“(iv) to the Urban Corporation for Tenakee, the surface estate in 14 parcels of Federal land comprising approximately 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the maps entitled ‘Tenakee Selections’, numbered 1 through 3, and dated February 19, 2021; and

1 “(v) to the Urban Corporation for
2 Wrangell, the surface estate in 13 parcels
3 of Federal land comprising approximately
4 23,040 acres, as generally depicted on the
5 maps entitled ‘Wrangell Selections’, num-
6 bered 1 through 5, and dated February 19,
7 2021.

8 “(B) CONVEYANCES TO REGIONAL COR-
9 PORATION FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA.—Subject
10 to valid existing rights, on the applicable date
11 on which the surface estate in land is conveyed
12 to an Urban Corporation under subparagraph
13 (A), the Secretary shall convey to the Regional
14 Corporation for Southeast Alaska the sub-
15 surface estate for that land.

16 “(C) CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.—It is the
17 intent of Congress that the Secretary convey
18 the surface estates described in subparagraph
19 (A) not later than the date that is 2 years after
20 the applicable date of incorporation under sec-
21 tion 16(e)(1) of an Urban Corporation.

22 “(2) WITHDRAWAL.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid exist-
24 ing rights, the Federal land described in para-
25 graph (1) is withdrawn from all forms of—

1 “(i) entry, appropriation, or disposal
2 under the public land laws;

3 “(ii) location, entry, and patent under
4 the mining laws;

5 “(iii) disposition under all laws per-
6 taining to mineral and geothermal leasing
7 or mineral materials; and

8 “(iv) selection under Public Law 85–
9 508 (commonly known as the ‘Alaska
10 Statehood Act’) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21).

11 “(B) TERMINATION.—The withdrawal
12 under subparagraph (A) shall remain in effect
13 until the date on which the Federal land is con-
14 veyed under paragraph (1).

15 “(3) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Ex-
16 cept as otherwise provided in this section, any land
17 conveyed to an Urban Corporation under paragraph
18 (1)(A) shall be—

19 “(A) considered to be land conveyed by the
20 Secretary under section 14(h)(3); and

21 “(B) subject to all laws (including regula-
22 tions) applicable to entitlements under section
23 14(h)(3), including section 907(d) of the Alaska
24 National Interest Lands Conservation Act (43
25 U.S.C. 1636(d)).

1 “(4) PUBLIC EASEMENTS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance and
3 patents for the land under paragraph (1)(A)
4 shall be subject to the reservation of public
5 easements under section 17(b).

6 “(B) TERMINATION.—No public easement
7 reserved on land conveyed under paragraph
8 (1)(A) shall be terminated by the Secretary
9 without publication of notice of the proposed
10 termination in the Federal Register.

11 “(C) RESERVATION OF EASEMENTS.—In
12 the conveyance and patents for the land under
13 paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall reserve
14 the right of the Secretary to amend the convey-
15 ance and patents to include reservations of pub-
16 lic easements under section 17(b) until the com-
17 pletion of the easement reservation process.

18 “(5) HUNTING, FISHING, RECREATION, AND AC-
19 CESS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any land conveyed
21 under paragraph (1)(A), including access to the
22 land through roadways, trails, and forest roads,
23 shall remain open and available to subsistence
24 uses, noncommercial recreational hunting and

1 fishing, and other noncommercial recreational
2 uses by the public under applicable law—

3 “(i) without liability on the part of the
4 Urban Corporation, except for willful acts
5 of the Urban Corporation, to any user as
6 a result of the use; and

7 “(ii) subject to—

8 “(I) any reasonable restrictions
9 that may be imposed by the Urban
10 Corporation on the public use—

11 “(aa) to ensure public safe-
12 ty;

13 “(bb) to minimize conflicts
14 between recreational and com-
15 mercial uses;

16 “(cc) to protect cultural re-
17 sources;

18 “(dd) to conduct scientific
19 research; or

20 “(ee) to provide environ-
21 mental protection; and

22 “(II) the condition that the
23 Urban Corporation post on any appli-
24 cable property, in accordance with

1 State law, notices of the restrictions
2 on use.

3 “(B) EFFECT.—Access provided to any in-
4 dividual or entity under subparagraph (A) shall
5 not—

6 “(i) create an interest in any third
7 party in the land conveyed under para-
8 graph (1)(A); or

9 “(ii) provide standing to any third
10 party in any review of, or challenge to, any
11 determination by the Urban Corporation
12 with respect to the management or devel-
13 opment of the land conveyed under para-
14 graph (1)(A), except as against the Urban
15 Corporation for the management of public
16 access under subparagraph (A).

17 “(6) MISCELLANEOUS.—

18 “(A) SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—On the conveyance
20 of land to an Urban Corporation under
21 paragraph (1)(A)—

22 “(I) any guiding or outfitting
23 special use authorization issued by the
24 Forest Service for the use of the con-
25 veyed land shall terminate; and

1 “(II) as a condition of the con-
2 veyance and consistent with section
3 14(g), the Urban Corporation shall
4 issue the holder of the special use au-
5 thorization terminated under sub-
6 clause (I) an authorization to continue
7 the authorized use, subject to the
8 terms and conditions that were in the
9 special use authorization issued by the
10 Forest Service, for—

11 “(aa) the remainder of the
12 term of the authorization; and

13 “(bb) 1 additional consecu-
14 tive 10-year renewal period.

15 “(ii) NOTICE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVI-
16 TIES.—The Urban Corporation, and any
17 holder of a guiding or outfitting authoriza-
18 tion under this subparagraph, shall have a
19 mutual obligation, subject to the guiding
20 or outfitting authorization, to inform the
21 other party of any commercial activities
22 prior to engaging in the activities on the
23 land conveyed to the Urban Corporation
24 under paragraph (1)(A).

1 “(iii) NEGOTIATION OF NEW
2 TERMS.—Nothing in this paragraph pre-
3 cludes the Urban Corporation and the
4 holder of a guiding or outfitting authoriza-
5 tion from negotiating a new mutually
6 agreeable guiding or outfitting authoriza-
7 tion.

8 “(iv) LIABILITY.—Neither the Urban
9 Corporation nor the United States shall
10 bear any liability, except for willful acts of
11 the Urban Corporation or the United
12 States, regarding the use and occupancy of
13 any land conveyed to the Urban Corpora-
14 tion under paragraph (1)(A), as provided
15 in any outfitting or guiding authorization
16 under this paragraph.

17 “(B) ROADS AND FACILITIES.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of
19 Agriculture shall negotiate in good faith
20 with the Urban Corporation to develop a
21 binding agreement for—

22 “(I) the use of National Forest
23 System roads and related transpor-
24 tation facilities by the Urban Corpora-
25 tion; and

1 “(II) the use of the roads and re-
2 lated transportation facilities of the
3 Urban Corporation by the Forest
4 Service and designees of the Forest
5 Service.

6 “(ii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The
7 binding agreement under clause (i)—

8 “(I) shall provide that the State
9 (including entities and designees of
10 the State) shall be authorized to use
11 the roads and related transportation
12 facilities of the Urban Corporation on
13 substantially similar terms as are pro-
14 vided by the Urban Corporation to the
15 Forest Service;

16 “(II) shall include restrictions on,
17 and fees for, the use of the National
18 Forest System roads and related
19 transportation facilities in existence as
20 of the date of enactment of this sec-
21 tion, as necessary, that are reasonable
22 and comparable to the restrictions
23 and fees imposed by the Forest Serv-
24 ice for the use of the roads and re-
25 lated transportation facilities; and

1 “(III) shall not restrict or limit
2 any access to the roads and related
3 transportation facilities of the Urban
4 Corporation or the Forest Service that
5 may be otherwise provided by valid ex-
6 isting rights and agreements in exist-
7 ence as of the date of enactment of
8 this section.

9 “(iii) INTENT OF CONGRESS.—It is
10 the intent of Congress that the agreement
11 under clause (i) shall be entered into as
12 soon as practicable after the date of enact-
13 ment of this section and in any case by not
14 later than 1 year after the date of incorpo-
15 ration of the Urban Corporation.

16 “(iv) CONTINUED ACCESS.—Begin-
17 ning on the date on which the land is con-
18 veyed to the Urban Corporation under
19 paragraph (1)(A) and ending on the effec-
20 tive date of a binding agreement entered
21 into under clause (i), the Urban Corpora-
22 tion shall provide and allow administrative
23 access to roads and related transportation
24 facilities on the land under substantially
25 similar terms as are provided by the For-

est Service as of the date of enactment of
this section.

“(C) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this
section delays the duty of the Secretary to
convey land to—

“(I) the State under Public Law
85–508 (commonly known as the
‘Alaska Statehood Act’) (48 U.S.C.
note prec. 21); or

“(II) a Native Corporation
under—

“(aa) this Act; or

“(bb) the Alaska Land
Transfer Acceleration Act (43
U.S.C. 1611 note; Public Law
108–452).

“(ii) STATEHOOD ENTITLEMENT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Statehood se-
lections under Public Law 85–508
(commonly known as the ‘Alaska
Statehood Act’) (48 U.S.C. note prec.
21) are not displaced by the parcels of
land described in clauses (i) through
(v) of paragraph (1)(A).

1 “(II) BOUNDARY ADJUST-
2 MENTS.—In the event of a dispute be-
3 tween an area selected as a Statehood
4 selection and a parcel of land referred
5 to in subclause (I), the Secretary shall
6 work with the Urban Corporation and
7 the State in good faith to adjust the
8 boundary of the parcel to exclude any
9 area selected as a Statehood selection.

10 “(iii) CONVEYANCES.—The Secretary
11 shall promptly proceed with the conveyance
12 of all land necessary to fulfill the final en-
13 titlement of all Native Corporations in ac-
14 cordance with—

15 “(I) this Act; and

16 “(II) the Alaska Land Transfer
17 Acceleration Act (43 U.S.C. 1611
18 note; Public Law 108–452).

19 “(iv) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—Nothing
20 in this section enlarges or diminishes the
21 responsibility and authority of the State
22 with respect to the management of fish
23 and wildlife on public land in the State.

24 “(D) MAPS.—

1 “(i) AVAILABILITY.—Each map re-
2 ferred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall be
3 available in the appropriate offices of the
4 Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture.

5 “(ii) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary,
6 in consultation with the Secretary of Agri-
7 culture, may make any necessary correc-
8 tion to a clerical or typographical error in
9 a map referred to in paragraph (1)(A).

10 “(c) CONVEYANCE OF ROADS, TRAILS, LOG TRANS-
11 FER FACILITIES, LEASES, AND APPURTENANCES.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, without
13 consideration or compensation, shall convey to each
14 Urban Corporation, by quitclaim deed or patent, all
15 right, title, and interest of the United States in all
16 roads, trails, log transfer facilities, leases, and ap-
17 purtenances on or related to the land conveyed to
18 the Urban Corporation under subsection (b)(1)(A).

19 “(2) CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under
20 paragraph (1) shall be subject to—

21 “(A) section 14(g); and

22 “(B) all valid existing rights, including any
23 reciprocal rights-of-way, easements, or agree-
24 ments for the use of the roads, trails, log trans-

1 fer facilities, leases, and appurtenances con-
2 veyed under paragraph (1).

3 “(3) CONTINUATION OF AGREEMENTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On or before the date
5 on which land is conveyed to an Urban Cor-
6 poration under subsection (b)(1)(A), the Sec-
7 retary shall provide to the Urban Corporation
8 notice of all reciprocal rights-of-way, easements,
9 and agreements for use of the roads, trails, log
10 transfer facilities, leases, and appurtenances on
11 or related to the land in existence as of the date
12 of enactment of this section.

13 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—In accordance with
14 section 14(g), any right-of-way, easement, or
15 agreement described in subparagraph (A) shall
16 continue unless the right-of-way, easement, or
17 agreement—

18 “(i) expires under its own terms; or

19 “(ii) is mutually renegotiated.

20 “(d) SETTLEMENT TRUST.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Urban Corporation
22 may establish a settlement trust in accordance with
23 section 39 for the purposes of promoting the health,
24 education, and welfare of the trust beneficiaries, and
25 preserving the Native heritage and culture, of the

1 community of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg,
2 Tenakee, or Wrangell, as applicable.

3 “(2) PROCEEDS AND INCOME.—The proceeds
4 and income from the principal of a trust established
5 under paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) first be applied to the support of
7 those enrollees, and the descendants of the en-
8 rollees, who are elders or minor children; and

9 “(B) thereafter to the support of all other
10 enrollees.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
13 \$12,500,000, to be used by the Secretary to provide 5
14 grants in the amount of \$2,500,000 each, to be used only
15 for activities that support the implementation of this sec-
16 tion, including planning and development.”.

○