To resolve the claims of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to lands adjacent to the Russian River in the State of Alaska.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2001

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To resolve the claims of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to lands adjacent to the Russian River in the State of Alaska.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Russian River Land Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Certain lands adjacent to the Russian River in the area of its confluence with the Kenai River
contain abundant archaeological resources of signifi-
cance to the Native people of the Cook Inlet Region,
the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, and the citizens of the
United States.

(2) Those lands at the confluence of the Rus-
sian River and Kenai River contain abundant fish-
eries resources of great significance to the citizens of
Alaska.

(3) Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native
Regional Corporation formed under the provisions of
the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971
(43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) (hereinafter in this Act re-
ferred to as “ANCSA”), has selected lands in the
area pursuant to section 14(h)(1) of such Act (43
U.S.C. 1613(h)(1)), for their values as historic and
cemetery sites.

(4) The United States Bureau of Land Man-
agement, the Federal agency responsible for the ad-
judication of ANCSA selection, has not finished ad-
judicating Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections under
section 14(h)(1) of that Act as of the date of the en-
actment of this Act.

(5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs has certified
a portion of Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections
under section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA as containing pre-
historic and historic cultural artifacts, and meeting
the requirements of section 14(h)(1) of that Act.

(6) A portion of the selections under section
14(h)(1) of ANCSA made by Cook Inlet Region,
Inc., and certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
lies within the Chugach National Forest over which
the United States Forest Service is the agency cur-
rently responsible for the administration of public
activities, archaeological features, and natural re-
sources.

(7) A portion of the selections under section
14(h)(1) of ANCSA and the lands certified by the
Bureau of Indian Affairs lies within the Kenai Na-
tional Wildlife Refuge over which the United States
Fish and Wildlife Service is the land managing
agency currently responsible for the administration
of public activities, archaeological features, and nat-
ural resources.

(8) The area addressed by this Act lies within
the Sqilantnu Archaeological District which was de-
termined eligible for the National Register of His-
toric Places on December 31, 1981.

(9) Both the Forest Service and the Fish and
Wildlife Service dispute the validity and timeliness of
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections under section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA.

(10) The Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., determined that it was in the interest of the United States and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to—

(A) protect and preserve the outstanding historic, cultural, and natural resources of the area;

(B) resolve their disputes concerning the validity of Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections under section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA without litigation; and

(C) provide for the management of public use of the area and protection of the cultural resources within the Sqilantnu Archaeological District, particularly the management of the area at the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers.

(11) Legislation is required to enact the resolution reached by the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ratify an agreement between the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
SEC. 3. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, UNITED
STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND
COOK INLET REGION, INC.

(a) RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.—The terms, condi-
tions, covenants, and procedures set forth in the document
entitled “Russian River Section 14(h)(1) Selection Agree-
ment”, which was executed by Cook Inlet Region, Inc.,
the United States Department of Agriculture, and the
United States Department of the Interior on July 26,
2001 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Agree-
ment”), are hereby incorporated in this section, and are
ratified, as to the duties and obligations of the United
States and the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., as a matter of
Federal law. In the event any of the terms of the Agree-
ment conflict with any other provision of law, the terms
of the Agreement shall be controlling.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding
any other provision of law, the Secretaries of Agriculture
and the Interior are authorized to take all actions required
under the terms of the Agreement.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-
ment of Agriculture, Office of State and Private Forestry,
$13,800,000, to remain available until expended, for Cook
Inlet Region, Inc., for the following:
(1) Costs for the planning and design of the Joint Visitor’s Interpretive Center.

(2) Planning and design of the Sqilantnu Archaeological Research Center.

(3) Construction of these facilities to be established in accordance with and for the purposes set forth in the Agreement.