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UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA
Many Traditions One Alaska

Sept. 29, 2020

Dear UA Community –

I'm happy to share with you some very good news. An important piece of federal legislation has been introduced by the Alaska Congressional Delegation, led by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, that provides a framework for the transfer of 360,000 acres of state land to the university. This legislation, if passed and signed into law, would fulfill the commitment of Congress to make available the full allotment of land to which the university is entitled.

This is major step forward for the university toward securing our long-term financial stability. Many people have worked long and hard over many years to create this pathway, and while there's more work to be done, this legislation means that our status as a '*land grant university without the land'* is finally coming to an end.

As introduced, the legislation would:

- o Authorize the Interior Secretary to establish a program within the Bureau of Land Management to identify and convey available lands to the University of Alaska from the acreage selected by the State of Alaska;

- o Develop a framework with which the university and the State of Alaska can work together to jointly identify lands for the UA allotment up to 360,000 acres; and,

- o Require the Secretary to notify the Congress once conveyance and patent of lands is complete.

We recognize that our congressional delegation has been critical to this effort, and we thank each of them for their support in finding a way through this complicated issue, and for the commitment from Gov. Dunleavy and his administration for the support to make this happen.

I look forward to the day when our full land allotment provides the university the long-term stable funding needed to enhance our students' educational experience and support our cutting edge research.

Sincerely,
Pat Pitney