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November 18, 1996

Robert Barbee, Field Director
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, AK 99503-2892

Dear Mr. Barbee:

The State of Alaska has reviewed the final regulations implementing visitor service authorizations under Section 1307 of ANILCA published in the Federal Register on October 18, 1996. We appreciate the final publishing of these regulations, and the effort by the National Park Service (NPS) to incorporate many of the State's previous comments. Overall, these regulations appear to reflect much of the intent of the statute.

We appreciate the improvement to Section 13.81(e) wherein the NPS has dropped the community population limit. We also note that the "local area" definition was changed from "within 35 straight-line miles of the boundary", to "within 100 miles of the location within the park area" where the service is authorized. The assertion in the Federal Register notice of October 18, 1996 that this 100 mile limit is "consistent" with "Tier 2" of the Alaska Land Use Council (ALUC) recommendations is perhaps a bit misleading, since Tier 2 as proposed by ALUC was for an area within 100 miles of the *boundary* of the park. Especially in relation to the larger parks of Alaska, this change in wording could have a significant impact on certain Alaska residents, and in fact could be *more* restrictive than the 35 mile straight-line limit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,



Alan Phipps
Project Review Coordinator

cc: John Katz, Governor's Office, Washington, D.C.
Marilyn Heiman, Governor's Office, Juneau
John Shively, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Frank Rue, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Joseph Perkins, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Michele Brown, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
William Hensley, Commissioner, Department of Commerce and Economic
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