

DAN WINKELMAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO
YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN , INSULAR, AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 329, H.R. 521, H.R. 812

Testimony on H.R. 521, *To provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska*

April 14, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Young and members of the committee. My name is Dan Winkelman. I am the President and CEO of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 521.

The YKHC is a non-profit tribal organization authorized by resolution of the traditional or Indian Reorganization Act councils of 58 federally-recognized Alaska Native tribes to administer a comprehensive health care delivery system for the communities of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta of southwestern Alaska. For more than twenty years, we have provided health care services to the people of the region under a Self-Governance Compact with the Indian Health Service under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDA).

Bethel, where YKHC's regional hospital and the land that is the subject of this bill is located, is in a remote, isolated service area approximately the size of the State of Oregon. This region is the traditional home to Alaska's indigenous Yup'ik, Cup'ik, and Athabascan people, and is not connected to the road system. As of the 2010 Census, 89% of the residents are Alaska Native, around half of the population speaks the Yup'ik or Cup'ik language at home, and many follow a subsistence lifestyle.

Critically, YKHC is the only full service provider of health care in the entire region. In addition to traditional health care services, YKHC provides a wide variety of community, social, and population health services to all the residents of the area, not just Alaska Natives. The system includes 41 village clinics, 5 subregional clinics, a regional hospital, dental services, behavioral health services, substance abuse counseling and treatment, health promotion and disease prevention programs, environmental health services and other programs.

However, the need for healthcare services in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta has grown so significantly that the current facility is woefully insufficient. For example, in 1991, when YKHC took over hospital operations, we had over 100,000 outpatient visits per year. In 2012, YKHC had over 230,000 outpatient visits, and this number is projected to continue to grow. Importantly, much of the increase in healthcare delivery by YKHC is in the area of primary care visits. In 2014, YKHC had over 37,543 primary care clinic visits. These are projected to increase to 81,217(or over a 200% increase) by 2025.

In order to meet the increasing demands for both inpatient and outpatient services, the current Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital (YKDRH) campus needs to be expanded. Therefore, YKHC is well into the process of planning an approximately \$225 million project to finance and (1) build a new approximately 11,750 square meter Primary Care Clinic, and (2) renovate the approximately 9,100 square meter existing YKDRH facility.

YKHC is working hard with the IHS and state, regional, and national partners to make this plan a reality. In the Fall 2014, YKHC applied for and was named the top applicant over 37 other national applicants for the 2014 IHS-Joint Venture Construction Program (JVCP). This program, which was set up by the IHS under Section 818 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, P.L. 94-437, authorizes the IHS to establish joint venture projects under which Tribes or Tribal organizations would acquire, construct, or renovate a health care facility and lease it to the IHS, at no cost, for a period of 20 years. Under this program, YKHC will use its own financing to design and construct the facility and, in return, the IHS will submit requests to Congress for funding for the staff, operations, and maintenance of the facility per the Joint Venture Agreement between YKHC and the IHS.

However, in order for this project to be successful, we need the support of this Committee and the Congress. Title to the parcel underlying the planned Primary Care Clinic is currently held by IHS, our primary partner in this project. In order to obtain the financing necessary to complete this expansion and renovation, and to be able to participate in the JVCP program, it is necessary that YKHC hold an unencumbered title to the land on which the new clinic will be located. This can only be accomplished through federal legislation, thus the need for H.R. 521.

We respectfully request favorable consideration of H.R. 521, which will allow us to successfully continue to fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility by providing for the future health care needs of Alaska Natives in our region.

This critical legislation would help to improve the availability of much needed health services for Alaska Natives whose health care status, despite years of progress, continues to lag behind other populations in Alaska and the rest of the United States.

Quyana for the opportunity and honor to provide testimony today.

Sincerely.

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORP.

Dan Winkelman, President and CEO,

DATE **DECEMBER 22, 1989**

**U.S. SURVEY
No. 4000, ALASKA**

THE RETRACEMENT AND DEPENDENT RESURVEY
THE SURVEY OF NEW MEANDERS
AND THE SUBDIVISION OF
U.S. SURVEY NO. 4000
INTO LOTS 1 THROUGH 5
SITUATED
ON
BOTH SIDES OF THE BETHEL AIRPORT ROAD
APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES EASTERLY OF
THE BETHEL AIRPORT

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION
OF
CORNER NO. 1, **LOT 2**
IDENTICAL WITH CORNER NO. 6
U.S. SURVEY NO. 3770
AND
CORNER NO. 1, U.S. SURVEY NO. 4117, IS:
LATITUDE: 60°47'23.65" NORTH
LONGITUDE: 161°47'08.18" WEST

SURVEYED BY
BRUCE E. OGONOWSKI, CADASTRAL SURVEYOR
SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH OCTOBER 5, 1989
UNDER SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
FOR GROUP NO. 503, ALASKA
DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 1989
APPROVED SEPTEMBER 22, 1989
SUPPLEMENTAL SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
DATED SEPTEMBER 22, 1989
APPROVED SEPTEMBER 22, 1989

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage, Alaska

This plat is strictly conformable to the approved field notes, and the survey, having been correctly executed in accordance with the requirements of law and the regulations of this Bureau, is hereby accepted.

For the Director

Dust C. Panoos (Acting) **Dec. 12, 1989**
Date
Deputy State Director for Cadastral Survey, Alaska

