



6/3/2025

**The Honorable Tom Harris, Vice President, Cape Fox Corporation, Ketchikan, Alaska:
Questions and responses to Questions from Representative Westerman- May 21,
2025. Bill H.R. 2815**

Questions from Rep. Westerman for The Hon. Thomas Harris, Vice President, Cape Fox Corporation, Ketchikan, Alaska

1. *What would finalizing this final land conveyance under ANCSA mean to Cape Fox?*

The passage of ANCSA on December 18, 1971 represented the largest single land settlement promise in Congressional history. This promise has been held up 53 years, for Cape Fox Corporation, based on the BLM'S strict bureaucratic interpretation of the letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law.

The spirit of the law intended that ANCSA corporations receive these lands as a community development endowment in support of and in service to the socioeconomic survival of each Congressionally identified community.

The agency's interpretation of the letter of the law, set aside that Congressional intent, in favor of forcing Cape Fox to select an isolated mountain top, with zero legal or ecological viable access and zero socioeconomic value to its community.

The passage of H.R. 2815 would for the first time in history, provide Cape Fox Corporation the last critical land selection that would finalize the land settlement and open up the potential to:

1. Complete a compact and contiguous utility corridor to a potential 9 MW hydroelectric site.
2. Develop that site into a completing interest hydroelectric power plant in support of the growing renewable energy demands the local community.
3. Complete a comprehensive analysis of this site as what may be the largest hydroelectric energy storage facility in Alaska, capable of stabilizing the Southeast Alaska Grid, while simultaneously functioning as a power charging station for Electric Vessels and Cruise Ships, that are currently forced to run onboard generators while in port.



2. *It is my understanding that the Cape Fox Corporation has the necessary licenses to develop the proposed Mahoney Lake Project power facility.*

- a. *What obstacles currently stand in the way of this development?*

At the present time no Power Sales Agreement (PSA) exists between CFC and Ketchikan Public Utility or any other entity. This is due in part to the lack of a secured utility corridor which H.R. 2815 addresses. As such, pursuit of a comprehensive hydropower/storage development plan, complete with a PSA and financing package can proceed upon the passage of H.R. 2815.

3. *From Cape Fox's perspective, how would H.R. 2815 ensure the Mahoney Lake Project is developed and enacted effectively?*

The passage of HR 2815 and the conveyance of these lands will allow CFC to move forward with design and construction of an access corridor between its existing land holdings. The construction of the access road will not only significantly increase the feasibility of the Mahoney Power Project, but it will also provide a significant source of Cultural Wood required to maintain traditional customs and skills of the Saxman People. There will also be additional economic activity due to increased access to its traditional lands. The increase to the existing tourism venues will be substantial.

4. *Committee research has shown that Cape Fox and surrounding areas deal with power brownouts due to the lack of ample energy supplied.*

- a. *Share with us what the Cape Fox brownout experience has been?*

In 2019 the Saxman / Ketchikan Area experienced a severe drought situation which impacted the hydropower sources. The area usually generates 98% of its power from Hydro, the drought required full use of the Utilities' existing diesel generation backup and additional generators to be added. The village of Metlakatla has experienced several "power crisis" events over the years due to aging power grids.

- b. *How would the Mahoney Lake Power Project reduce brownouts?*

The Mahoney Power Project would increase electrical power production allowing for additional long-term power security.



5. What positive impacts would the Mahoney Lake Power Project provide for surrounding communities?

Coupled with an intertie to Metlakatla, many economic projects including changing current diesel heat to electric, providing power to Cruise Ships, and expanding the Ketchikan Shipyard can be realized. The additional power will allow expansion for potential milling or mining activities such as the Niblack and Bokan-Dotson Mines which would require additional electrical generation. The largest potential power requirement is for the Cruise Lines which are interested in “plugging in” to the Ketchikan power grid. A large cruise ship requires 12 MGW of power to partially shut down its systems.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Harris

Thomas Harris
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Cape Fox Corporation