

**Testimony by Randy Mayo, 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief  
Stevens Village IRA Council  
To the  
U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee  
Oversight Hearing on S. 2301**

**April 29, 2004**

Chairman Inouye, members of the Committee, honored guests, thank you for this Opportunity to Testify before you during the Oversight Hearing on S. 2301, a discussion draft bill that would improve the management of Native American fish and wildlife and gathering, and for other purposes. I am honored by this invitation to present oral testimony to the Committee. Our written Testimony has already been submitted by our Tribal Natural Resource Director, Mr. Dewey Schwalenberg seated here to my right. I speak today in support of the this bill in behalf of my 215 Tribal members and for the other community residents of Stevens Village who stand to benefit from the resource management and protection that this bill will provide to my community. Stevens Village is located 90 air miles North of Fairbanks, AK on the North bank of the Yukon River. There are 30 households in the village and 90 residents. Most are Tribal members and share-holders in the Dinyee Native Village Corporation. I am the vice-president of the Dinyee Corporation. The remainder of the Tribal members reside in Fairbanks or other communities because they need to have work which is difficult to find in the village. Many of our members would like to live in the village and most do use fish, wildlife, and forestry resources from our traditional lands during certain seasons of the year. There are no roads to Stevens Village. Transportation is by small plane, by boat up the Yukon River from the Yukon River Bridge on the Dalton Highway 27 miles down stream from the village or by snow-machine or dog sled to the Bridge in the winter. Barges come up the River twice a year to deliver fuel and construction materials.

Air freight for personal goods to the village is 45 cents per pound. None of the houses have sewer and water but we do have treated water and sewer to the school and water plant. The school has 13 students from pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Council is the largest employer in the village and we have 7 full-time workers and 12-15 seasonal workers. The Tribal Lands and natural resource program employs most of our workers for fisheries, wildlife, forestry, and environmental projects. Without the resource program the community would have little employment. Funding for these programs have been challenging to maintain. Periodic grants have kept the program going for the past 6 years but permanent funding is necessary, soon or we will lose this portion of our economy. Our people are very much dependant upon the Salmon that comes up-river in the summer and on moose that live around the village. The moose population is at a very low level and we have taken steps to begin raising buffalo to supplement our meat supply.

To provide the technical comments on the bill I will ask Mr. Schwalenberg to use the rest of our time to highlight our technical testimony.