

Statement of Glenn Casamassa
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Before the
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
Concerning
H.R. 211 – Chugach Region Lands Study Act
April 26, 2018

Chairman LaMalfa, Ranking Member Torres, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding H.R. 211 – Chugach Region Lands Study Act.

H.R. 211 requires the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC), to identify at least 500,000 acres of economically viable Federal land that could be conveyed to CAC in exchange for CAC lands. The bill would require that any exchange that the parties agree to be carried out under applicable existing authorities. The bill also provides that an acre-for-acre exchange would be in the public interest. USDA would like to work with the sponsor and the Committee on clarifying how the bill would affect the requirement for an equal value exchange under existing authorities.

Thank you for opportunity to provide information about this bill. This concludes my prepared statement and I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.