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November 30, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Cantwell:

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is Alaska's leading statewide nonprofit membership organization for the Alaska travel industry with over 700 members. Nearly two million visitors come to Alaska each year contributing over \$3.8 billion in economic impact to the State. National Parks and other public lands are important and valuable destinations in many visitors' itineraries. The economic benefits are significant for the tourism businesses that operate in the parks and gateway communities. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (**ANILCA**) resulted in the formation of 80 million acres of public lands in Alaska and in coordination with the State of Alaska encourages appropriate tourism that provides visitor services while benefiting local economies.

ATIA recognizes the importance of adequately funding federal public lands in Alaska. Increased funding ensures public lands will become more accessible to visitors, and not less, by ensuring land managers have the tools necessary to provide visitor services such as interpretation, trail maintenance and permit processing.

Thank you for reviewing this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leonard
President & CEO

cc: Governor Bill Walker