

Introduced by: Natural Resources Committee
Date Introduced: February 9, 2005
Date Passed: February 9, 2005
Date Transmitted: February 10, 2005

RESOLUTION 05-0209

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FAIRBANKS CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE SUPPORTING THE PENDING LAND EXCHANGE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE AND DOYON, LIMITED**

WHEREAS the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have agreed in principle to a land exchange with Doyon, Limited for lands in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS under this pending land exchange agreement Doyon, Limited would receive less than 2% of the 9 million acre refuge in an area not considered the biological heart of the Yukon Flats refuge, but that has the potential for significant oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS in exchange, if all provisions of the agreement are fulfilled, the USFWS would have a net gain of over 220,000 acres of valuable waterfowl habitat lands of national and international significance; and

WHEREAS the land exchange will also consolidate public and private lands to maximize the management of these resources for both the government agency and the private corporation; and

WHEREAS recent studies suggest that large quantities of economically recoverable conventional oil and gas may be present in the Yukon Flats, perhaps as much as the Cook Inlet Basin; and

WHEREAS the development of these lands would provide significant economic development for the six villages in the Yukon Flats sub-region and would increase dividends for all Doyon, Limited shareholders; and

WHEREAS if production occurs in these lands, the USFWS will also receive payments; and

WHEREAS increased oil and gas development continues to support many Fairbanks based businesses that provide support services to the industry and adds to the economic base of Interior Alaska.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the pending land exchange agreement between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Doyon, Limited and encourages both parties to continue their work for full implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to:

Secretary Gale Norton, US Department of Interior

US Senator Ted Stevens

US Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young

Governor Frank Murkowski

Interior Delegation

Regional US Fish and Wildlife Service office

Mr. Orie Williams, Doyon, Limited President

Mayor Jim Whitaker, Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor Steve Thompson – City of Fairbanks

Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly

Fairbanks City Council

/s/Norm Phillips, Jr. _____

Norm Phillips, Jr.

Board Chairman

/s/Kara Moriarty

Kara Moriarty

President/CEO