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Mr. Dan Hull  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
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Dear Dan:

Thank you for contacting me to provide comments regarding S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act. I appreciate hearing from you and having the opportunity to respond.

As you are aware, on February 10, 2015, I introduced S. 437, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act. This bill would require any national monument proposed on public land or within exclusive economic zones to have specific authorization by an Act of Congress, have approval by the state legislature, and adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act. For marine monuments, approval by each state legislature within 100 miles of the proposed monument would also be required.

Under a century-old measure called the Antiquities Act, the President is allowed to unilaterally designate national monuments on federal lands and waters without Congressional or state approval. I believe S. 437 would establish important "checks" on the President's authority, and help protect the economic well-being of Alaskans. The bill would ensure economic activities like fishing and responsible resource development are not put at risk by a simple stroke of the President's pen.

As this legislation moves forward, I will keep the comments provided by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in mind. Again, thank you for your letter and your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator