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Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

In 1959, Alaska received 104 million acres of land from the federal government when it became a state under the Alaska Statehood Act. In 1971, Alaska Natives agreed to relinquish their aboriginal land rights in exchange for 44 million acres of land from the federal government under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Neither Alaska Native people nor Alaska residents should have expected that the federal government would transfer contaminated lands in fulfillment of its obligations under these laws; however, that is exactly what happened.

Despite repeated direction from Congress since 1990, the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management have not completed a full site inventory, identified potentially responsible parties, or initiated site characterization or cleanup of the contamination on these ANCSA lands. To our knowledge, no federal agency has completed this work for State-owned sites either. To that end, I have directed the Alaska Departments of Law and Environmental Conservation to pursue resolution of these issues with your Secretaries of Interior, Defense, and Agriculture.

We are demanding that these agencies develop detailed plans with the goal of cleaning up these contaminated sites as required by state and federal law. Please direct your cabinet to dedicate appropriate funding and agency resources to address these long overdue environmental contamination issues.

I look forward to the day when the federal government has cleaned up these contaminated sites allowing Alaskans, Alaska Native Corporations, and their shareholders to use their lands freely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor