

In short, Congress need have no fears about Native control of Native development corporations. Paternalism is neither required nor wanted.

B. The Need for Regional Corporations

The concept of a development corporation is imaginative and can do much to improve the lives of all Alaskan Natives. However, the single state-wide corporation proposed in the Federal Field and Interior Bills would prevent optimum use of the settlement proceeds. This is so for several reasons.

In the first place, the proposed single corporation is much too big and widespread. Having resources in the hundreds of millions of dollars, it would become one of the most significant economic factors in the state -- if not the most significant. The directors would be some of the most powerful men in the state. This would not be desirable for the State of Alaska or its Native peoples.

Moreover, given the number of Native villages, the economic and sociological differences between these villages, the great size of Alaska (it is more than twice the size of Texas, 17 times the size of all of the New England states combined, and 56 times the size of Maryland), and the variations in climate and terrain, it would be virtually impossible for a single state-wide corporation to meet the