

**Records of the Committee on
Interior and Insular Affairs
RG.233.96.IIA
96th Congress**

**Finding aid prepared by Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 21, 2012

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC, 20408
202-357-5350
legislative.archives@nara.gov

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Interior and Insular Affairs, 96th Congress</u>	4
<u>Arrangement note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Bill files</u>	7
<u>Official communications</u>	7
<u>Oversight files</u>	7
<u>Minority</u>	9
<u>Minutes</u>	10

Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Creator	Committee on Natural Resources.
Title	Records of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Date [inclusive]	1979-1980
Extent	250.0 Linear feet (circa 500 archival boxes)
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

The House Committee on Natural Resources can trace its jurisdictional history to the Committee on Public Lands, which was created on December 17, 1805, on a motion by Representative William Findley, a Republican from Pennsylvania. Its jurisdiction would not change until the 1940s.

In the 80th Congress, after the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, various committee jurisdictions were combined with that of the Committee on Public Lands in the House. In particular, five former standing Committees from the 19th and early 20th Century were combined into the House Committee on Public Lands. These five committees, along with years they were created, were; Territories (1825), Mines and Mining (1865), Indian Affairs (1821), Irrigation and Reclamation (1893) and Insular Affairs (1899). After the 82nd Congress, on February 2, 1951, the House Committee on Public Lands was renamed the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which later became the House Committee on Natural Resources in 1993. In the 104th Congress (1995), the jurisdiction of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (1887) was transferred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The Committee has always been tasked with overseeing the nation's public lands. Conflicts between preserving the land as wilderness and use it for logging, grazing and mining often fall to this committee and then Congress to resolve. The panel also oversees water projects, many environmental issues and even management of wildlife refuges. The committee is crucial to Representatives with many of the nation's public lands in its districts, especially those from the West.

Interior and Insular Affairs, 96th Congress

Records are bill files, oversight hearing files, executive communications, petitions and memorials, presidential messages, committee minutes, and printed documents organized by series (hearings, House documents, public laws). There is a significant collection of records relating to H.R. 39, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which eventually became P.L. 96-487. This bill was intended to "preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archaeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values."

Arrangement note

Files are arranged by series and organized by full committee or subcommittees, if applicable. The largest series in the records, bill files, are arranged by House and Senate bills and arranged by bill number.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Rule VII

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules: (b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Alaska

Subject(s)

- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
- Wildlife conservation

- Wildlife refuges Alaska

Collection Inventory

Bill files (circa 170 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

There is a large series on HR 39, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, covering issues in the legislation related to wilderness, subsistence, fish and wildlife, personalities involved, implementation of the Alaska Statehood Act, the state of Alaska, native corporations, associations and villages, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act legislation, land swaps, lobby groups, polls/surveys/reports, and editorials, correspondence, related bills and reports, and background material. Also includes other bills referred to the committee and subcommittee, Senate bills, and the legislative calendars and review of activities.

Official communications (36 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Executive communications, memorials and petitions, and presidential messages.

Printed documents (15 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Printed documents includes hearings, joint hearings, committee prints, and House documents.

Oversight files

Full committee

Full committee (6 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents note

Files are oversight hearings and meeting files, including committee resolutions, briefings, and hearing materials.

Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (17 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents note

Oversight and meeting files, including hearing materials and briefings. Includes hearings, task force meetings, reports, briefings, and field inspections related to the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania.

Subcommittee on Mines and Mining (8 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Printed hearings, briefings, and related subcommittee working materials.

Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs (1 archival box)

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (6 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Printed hearings and related subcommittee working materials.

Subcommittee on Pacific Affairs (1 archival box)

Subcommittee on Public Lands (4 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Records covering RARE II Wilderness proposals, MX Missile System.

Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources (1 archival box)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Minority

Administrative files (circa 42 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Legislative files

Correspondence, printed public laws, committee minutes of the minority.

Legislative files (33 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged by bill number.

Oversight files (17 archival boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Minority files related to oversight hearings held by subcommittees.

Arrangement note

Arranged by subcommittee and subject.

Subcommittee files (5 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged by subcommittee.

Minutes

Full committee (17 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment (10 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (2 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Mines and Mining (5 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs (5 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Pacific Affairs (1 archival box)

Arrangement note

Subcommittee on Public Lands

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Public Lands (8 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.

Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources (5 archival boxes)

Arrangement note

Arranged chronologically.