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Senate Bill 230 Sponsor Statement

In 2018, the Legislature passed House Bill 6 establishing the Jonesville Public Use Area in the Sutton/Jonesville area to preserve recreational access, protect fish and wildlife habitat, and improve public safety for Alaskans who enjoy this important area.

As the Department of Natural Resources has been working to draft implementing regulations for the Jonesville Public Use Area, a small omission in the statutory land description was identified. During review of the mapping and legal description, it became clear that a specific section of land that was intended to be included in the original designation was inadvertently left out of the statutory boundary language.

Senate Bill 230 corrects that technical omission.

This bill adopts updated boundary language provided by the Department of Natural Resources to ensure the statute accurately reflects the area originally contemplated by the Legislature in 2018. SB 230 does not expand the public use area beyond its intended footprint, does not alter management authority, and does not change the purposes for which the area was established.

Instead, this legislation ensures that the legal description aligns with the original legislative intent and the area being managed on the ground.

Correcting this technical issue provides clarity in land status, protects valid existing rights, and allows DNR to complete its regulatory process with accurate statutory boundaries.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support Senate Bill 230 to ensure the Jonesville Public Use Area boundaries are accurate and complete.

If you have additional questions, please contact my office. 907-465-4859