The basic concern of the Alaska statehood hearings was these same lands.

The bills which we discuss today are efforts to carry out the provisions and the spirit of 101 years of history.

The present and the future of the State of Alaska is tied to land. The U.S. Congress recognized that fact in the Statehood Act when it granted to the State 103,350,000 acres of federally owned land. The land obligation of the Congress to the natives of Alaska still has not been met.

The urgency of a settlement involves all Alaskans, native and non-native, and all Americans.

The reason for this urgency is the "land freeze" in the State of Alaska.

The history of the "freeze" is this. In 1961, the first native claims were filed in the State of Alaska. There were four of these protests.

In each of these cases, the regional offices of the Bureau of Land Management denied these claims.

There was then an appeal to the Secretary of the Interior. There has not yet been a decision of the Secretary of the Interior on the validity of these protests.

However, there has been since that time native claims which blanket the State and a refusal by the Secretary of the Interior to issue patent to the State of Alaska for lands granted to the State under the Statehood Act.

At the time of the imposition of the "freeze," the State had applied for 17.8 million acres, but had been granted patent to only 5.2 million acres and tentative approval to 7.9 million acres.

Of the 103 million acres to which Alaska is entitled under the Statehood Act, Alaska has patent to 5 million acres.

This is statehood at 5 percent.

Further, the Secretary of the Interior has cut off Federal mineral leases. The State of Alaska is entitled to 90 percent of the royalties from most of these leases.

Under the "land freeze," neither the State nor the Federal Government receives anything for these denied applications.

The "land freeze" has resulted in the loss of direct revenues to the State from pending mineral applications in an amount of a half million dollars.

These are applications that are already on file.

In addition, we have conservatively estimated that another $600,000 to $700,000 has been lost from mineral leasing revenues on lands where there is good potential for mineral exploration.

The latter amount has undoubtedly changed in the past few weeks with the encouraging results of Alaska's newest and highly promising oil and gas province—the Arctic north slope.

A tremendous upsurge in leasing activity has occurred in the Fairbanks land office of the Bureau of Land Management on unleased lands of the north slope.

Last week alone, applications were received covering over 150,000 acres. Applications have been accepted but actual issuance of leases and resulting income is withheld until there is a settlement of the native claims which cover these areas.

This is an economic paralysis which affects all of us.

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