

On behalf of the **Ted Stevens Foundation**, we wish to respond to your attack on the senator's legacy in your July 21 editorial. It is unfortunate that the Empire failed to contact the **foundation** in an attempt to understand the reasoning behind the move of the senator's **papers**, and instead relied on conjecture and misinformation.

Sen. **Ted Stevens' papers** document over 40 years of his work representing the people of the State of Alaska, and is one of the largest congressional collections ever amassed. As former Stevens staffers ourselves, we are committed to ensuring that Alaskans have the opportunity to understand the history of our state and the senator's efforts in successfully navigating the legislative process. As such, the **Foundation** secured a \$1 million pledge from BP, which we asked to be donated to the University of Alaska Fairbanks for the initial processing of this collection. Once the University expended those funds, it had other funding priorities and declined to request additional funding for the **Ted Stevens Papers** project from the Legislature. Given the importance of continuing to prepare the collection for opening to the public, the **foundation** requested and received a state appropriation.

The **foundation** has consulted with archival experts to determine how best to proceed, and it was based on their recommendations that the collection is being transferred to Anchorage. The **Foundation** has hired the archivist who has been working with the **papers** at University of Alaska Fairbanks for several years to continue to process the **papers**. It has rented office space in Anchorage and is planning to hire additional professional archivists to ensure the processing can be done more quickly and efficiently.

Your statement that the **foundation** intends to "censor" the **papers** is completely untrue. The collection will be open to the public, but must first be processed according to acceptable archival methods, which does NOT entail censorship. Had anyone from the Empire taken the time to speak with the **foundation**, you would have learned that we feel a great responsibility to do this right so that Alaskans can learn from this collection all that **Ted Stevens** did for this state and nation.

Tim McKeever,

Chairman, **Ted Stevens Foundation Board**

Karina Waller,

Executive Director, **Ted Stevens Foundation**