

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS



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HJR 17 Water & Wastewater Regulation Sponsor Statement

This resolution urges Congress to bring forth legislation that would direct the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide consistent and reasonable standards in their regulation of drinking water and wastewater discharge in Alaska.

Communities across Alaska have historically struggled with Federal policy that fails to recognize geographical, economic, and environmental challenges unique to our state. The Alaska State Legislature, through this resolution, identifies the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as best suited to remain the primary regulatory agency in Alaska to administer State & Federal drinking water and wastewater guidelines. HJR 17 encourages policy that will continue to allow 76 coastal communities to work with the ADEC to maintain reasonable & preferential management of water and wastewater systems.

Current changes in EPA policy are creating an uncertain future for many Alaskan communities. The House Community & Regional Affairs Committee feels strongly it is time for intervention from our Congress directing the EPA to identify practical standards for different regions in the country and to work with individual states through a consistent and sensible manner.

HJR 17 sends a strong message of concern from the Alaska State Legislature to Congress, the President, and other state legislatures in our country. Our Alaskan communities depend on federal regulatory agencies such as the EPA to understand and recognize the challenges we face in Alaska to survive. HJR 17 urges Congress to take appropriate measures to assure communities in Alaska may participate and create common sense solutions for a healthy environment.

Terry Harvey 465-3882 for additional info.