



City of Pelican

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February 20, 2009

Honorable Bob Herron and Honorable Cathy Munoz
Co-Chairs House Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Capitol, Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Co-Chairs Herron and Munoz:

The City of Pelican wishes to support House Bill 74 which would improve the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP). Changes made to the program in 2003 have reduced the effectiveness of the ACMP.

As a mayor of a small rural coastal community, I see first-hand the onerous Federal and State Environmental reviews and permitting processes. These bills would allow coastal districts to establish meaningful enforceable policies, but in my opinion, they would not lead to significant additional burdens for project applicants because coastal districts need economic development.

The City of Pelican supports creation of the Coastal Policy Board. This board would lead to a better balance in decisions because it would represent state agencies and coastal districts. Nothing in the proposed legislation would allow the board to overrule agency decisions.

We also support integration of the Department of Environmental Conservation into the ACMP consistency review process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 74.

Sincerely,

Patricia Phillips
Patricia Phillips
Mayor

cc: Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee