



The Honorable Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

March 30, 2013

Dear Governor Parnell:

NANA Regional Corporation neither supports nor opposes House Bill 77/Senate Bill 26, introduced at your request; however we would like to express a concern with a proposed change in the bill.

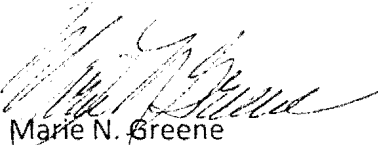
Section 40 would eliminate the ability of "a person" to reserve water rights. Under the existing statute (AS 46.15.145(A)), Alaska Native Corporations ("ANCs") created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as well as other entities and individuals, are eligible to apply for reserved water rights as "a person." We respectfully urge you to either revoke Section 40 or seek to amend it in a manner that would continue the eligibility of ANCs and Federally Recognized Tribes to apply for water reservations.

Eliminating the eligibility of ANCs to apply for water reservations will not result in the efficiencies HB77 and SB26 are intended to create. According to the document "Water Reservations Quantity by Applicant," available in the legislative record, there are 371 pending reservation applications, 37 of which were submitted by non-governmental entities. With the vast majority of pending applications submitted by public agencies, eliminating the ability of "a person" to apply for water rights would not solve the existing back-log in processing the applications. While no ANCs have applied for a water reservation to date, NANA is active in responsible resource development, and therefore opposed to eliminating the opportunity to utilize this avenue in the future.

NANA would support an amendment to Section 40 that adds ANCs and Federally Recognized Tribes to the list of entities that may apply for water reservations. NANA would also support the deletion of Section 40 of the bill, which would leave in place the ability of "a person" to apply for water reservations.

Thank you for considering our concern, and thank you again for the efforts of DNR to create efficiencies in the State permitting processes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marie N. Greene", is written over the printed name.

Marie N. Greene
President & CEO

CC:

Senator Donny Olson

Representative Ben Nageak