

## **Lynne Smith**

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**From:** Jonathan Friedman <jfriedman@txbsi.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 10, 2013 5:04 PM  
**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche  
**Cc:** Sen. Lesil McGuire; alison.eskelin@alaska.gov; crestino@reportalaska.com; pdougherty@adn.com  
**Subject:** SB32 - Chikuminuk Lake Hydroelectric Site

Dear Senator Micciche and Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to SB32, proposed by Senator L. McGuire, which would permit development and operation of a hydroelectric at Chikuminuk Lake in Wood-Tikchik State Park.

I live in Texas and each summer bring my family (and frequently other friends and family) to Alaska for a wilderness experience in different parts of the state. For the upcoming summer, a group of ten of us (my family and another family) intended to do a float trip on Chikuminuk Lake in Wood-Tikchik State Park. When I began planning the trip some months ago, I was informed that in 2012 helicopter flights were taking place over the lake to perform feasibility studies of a hydroelectric plant on the lake. Based on the prospect of additional helicopter flights and/or other similar activities, we have elected not to visit Chikuminuk Lake this summer.

For the ten of us, for a two week visit to Alaska, I estimate we would have spent \$10,000 in direct costs in the Dillingham and Bristol Bay regions.

I share this with you not because our individual circumstance has any bearing on your decision making regarding allowing the development and operation of a hydroelectric plant on Chikuminuk, but because our situation exemplifies how out of state visitors wanting to experience this unique wilderness will react to this project. As you are aware, Chikuminuk Lake has been identified by the Alaska DNR as uniquely representative of the wilderness of this region, and has been afforded special protections in this regard via a permitting process for visitation and prohibition of motorized watercraft. If this project were to proceed as proposed, I would not choose to visit Chikuminuk Lake in the future, nor any area along the 118 mile corridor proposed for the transmission lines from the hydroelectric plant.

As it will be impossible for the committee to quantify the number of visitors who choose not to visit this area because of the development of a hydroelectric plant, I hope that this qualitative perspective on the deleterious impact of the proposed project on the wilderness experience and future visitation will help inform your decision making.

Thank you for your attention to this letter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information. With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Jonathan A. Friedman, M.D.

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cc: Senator Lesil McGuire

Wood-Tikchik State Park

The Bristol Bay Times

Anchorage Daily News