



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105-2230

23 Jan 2013

Clare R. Mendelsohn
Department of Defense
Regional Environmental Coordinator Region 10
50 Fremont St Ste 2450
San Francisco, CA 94105

The Honorable Tammie Wilson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Wilson:

I am writing on behalf the military services to express the Department of Defense's (DoD) support for House Bill 36, which you introduced to amend Alaska's Clean Water Act (AK CWA). Thanks to your continued leadership and assistance, this amendment will help ensure Alaska's continued capacity to host sustainable military readiness training.

As the DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region X, I am responsible for coordinating responses to various environmental matters affecting Alaska's military installations. In this capacity, I am grateful for your support to DoD as we have coordinated with interested stakeholders, including the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Alaska Office of the Attorney General, US EPA, and the Alaska Military Force Advocacy and Structure Team (AMFAST), in developing this amendment.

As you are aware, existing language in Alaska Statute AS §46.03.100(e)(7) ("unless it results in a discharge into waters of the United States") might be interpreted to restrict the use of Alaska military ranges in a way that is not required under the federal Clean Water Act. HB 36 will instead allow the use of military ranges "unless otherwise regulated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act." This will ensure military ranges can comply with Alaska law and be used in accordance with federal law, and will require that questions regarding the application of the AK CWA to military ranges are determined in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act.

In closing, Alaska's military installations and training range areas are crucial to DoD's worldwide mission. HB 36 is an important step in sustaining military training in Alaska. Thank you again for introducing and supporting this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clare R. Mendelsohn", is written over a horizontal line.

CLARE R. MENDELSON

DoD Regional Environmental Coordinator, Region 10