

2 April 2013

RE: HB 77 Testimony, for the record.

From: Dr. Carol Ann Woody, Federal Fisheries Research Scientist, Alaska (18+ yrs), Alaskan Business Owner- Fisheries Research & Consulting (6 years), resident since 1988; consultant to Tribes, NGOs and agencies.

Dear Committee,

Prior to becoming an Alaskan resident in 1988, I lived in New Mexico, where clean fresh water is rare and so precious that violence sometimes erupts over its allocation, theft or contamination. Worldwide it is estimated that by 2030 over half the world's population will suffer high water stress. As Alaskans, we still have abundant clean water to drink and to sustain our valuable fisheries. However, as more water needy businesses move to Alaska, public concern and conflict over how water is allocated will only increase. HB 77, if passed, serves to disregard and disallow Alaskan concerns over water allocation. Alaskans will no longer receive prior notice or be allowed to participate in allocation decisions; they will no longer be able participate or have their voices heard prior to a DNR "Best Interest Finding" for water allocation decisions. Tribes, NGOs, and other Alaskan entities will not be allowed to reserve sufficient water flows to ensure the future survival of fish they depend on for food and economic security.

We wiped out once abundant Atlantic salmon populations on the East coast; all US populations are now listed as endangered. We have thus far extirpated Lower 48 Pacific salmon from about half their range, all because of how we chose to allocate water. Once abundant reliable subsistence, commercial, and sport fisheries for salmon in these regions are gone. And hatcheries, "mitigation", "rehabilitation", have not brought them back. It's simple really. Salmon and their intricate food chains are adapted to natural water flows, temperatures and chemistry - if you change flows you change the dynamic and you can reduce and change salmon habitat. HB 77 expects Alaskan's to trust DNR to ensure that significant adverse impacts to salmon will not occur. But the US and world track record for salmon shows that public salmon resources generally lose to large water hungry corporate interests.

Alaskan's, including Tribes and Tribal entities, environmental interests, and others have spent considerable money and effort to collect required data to apply for water rights to ensure sufficient flows are conserved for salmon. HB 77 effectively ignores these Alaskan's concerns and dismisses their significant financial investment. Only unless these entities pair with federal agencies or other government entities will they be able to conserve Alaskan salmon via reservation of water flows for salmon. And all Alaskans know how "federal intervention", besides money influx to the State, is received.

HB 77 was introduced on the premise that Alaska needs to “streamline” permitting, that our policies indicate to investors that Alaska is “closed for business”. This is fallacy. According to the Fraser Institute, which annually surveys the mineral industry on most and least attractive US states for investment shows that in 2012/2013 Alaska ranked forth most attractive US state for mineral investment (see <http://www.fraserinstitute.org/research-news/display.aspx?id=19401>). Such a rank indicates we are not closed for business. In fact, DNR and the Commissioner have publically stated that lack of permitting personnel is what actually slows permitting. Not public input and participation.

HB 77 goes against the constitutional right of Alaskans to have a say in how their most important natural public resource, water, is allocated. HB 77 reduces transparency in government and the ability of Alaskans to shape their natural resource future. As an Alaskan, I do not support HB 77.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Ann Woody
Fisheries Scientist
6601 Chevigny St
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-248-4776

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 3:21 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: HB76

Testimony

-----Original Message-----

From: Katharine Collins [<mailto:kcmissycollins2@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:38 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB76

I am writing to express my opposition to HB77 which eliminates my individual right to participate in state stream & wildlife decisions so that these resources may remain in their natural state for environmental & cultural purposes. I hereby request that this testimony be included in the written record as testimony in opposition to this bill.

Katharine Collins
3341 west 84th
Anchorage Alaska 99502

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Jennifer M. Nomura <jmnomura@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:45 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I oppose HB 77

dear Senator Kevin Meyer,

I oppose HB 77. please help us preserve our standards to protect fish and wildlife, as well as the ability of Alaskan's to participate in management decisions relating to our fishing and hunting resources. I ask that my comments be considered official written testimony on the bill and added to the public record.

thank you, ~jen nomura

Jennifer Nomura
University of Washington
School of Aquatic & Fisheries Sciences
1122 NE Boat Street
Seattle, WA 98105

<http://www.acoustics.washington.edu/>

Doniece Gott

From: levelock@gci.net on behalf of Greg Andrew Jr <levelock@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:43 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: hb77

Hello, I would like to say no to HB77 as I live in Levelock Ak and grew up on lake Iliamna, we would like our voices to always be heard and HB 77 is trying to quite us. Thank You Greg Andrew Jr

Doniece Gott

From: Marcus Weiner <info@fishalaskamagazine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:43 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I oppose HB77

Dear Senator,

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB77 and ask that my comment be considered official written testimony on the bill and added to the public record.

Thank you,

Marcus Weiner
Publisher, Fish and Hunt Alaska magazines

Doniece Gott

From: K Widmer <kkwidmer@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:39 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

This bill was written with one purpose, which is to eliminate restrictions that would impact the development of Pebble mine. I believe that bill was written at the request of the Pebble mine developers and likely written by their attorneys. This legislature is not representing the people of Alaska, instead the lobbyists and corporations are in charge and our elected officials are figureheads. I am opposed to HB 77. Please include my comments in the public record regarding this bill.

Ken Widmer
PO Box 873754
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Doniece Gott

From: Steve Schoonmaker <saulteur@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:31 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

It's time to side with the people and give them a voice. It's our responsibility to protect these streams and rivers. Please fix HB 77 and uphold the peoples right to reserve waters for salmon throughout the state.

Please consider this official written testimony on the bill and add to the public record.

Steve Schoonmaker
Kasilof, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Robb <robjustice@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:15 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77 - Testimony

I would like to submit a comment to be added to public testimony regarding HB 77.

The state often sides with mining and oil and I think it's time we side with the fish. It's our responsibility to protect these salmon for our future generations. Please fix HB 77 and uphold Alaskans right to apply to DNR to reserve water in rivers and streams throughout the state.

Our children need you!

Sincerely,
Robb Justice

Doniece Gott

From: Krista Justice <kristajustice@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:04 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I would like to submit a comment to be added to public testimony regarding HB 77.

The state often sides with mining and oil and I think it's time we side with the fish. It's our responsibility to protect these salmon for our future generations. Please fix HB 77 and uphold Alaskans right to apply to DNR to reserve water in rivers and streams throughout the state.

Krista Justice
Soldotna, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Kit Burns <kburns@BLRB.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 9:17 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Oppose HB 77

Dear Senator Meyer,

I urge you to oppose HB 77. Weakening protections of the environment and food supply is a poison to all citizens.

Giving corporate control of these resources to "self regulate" is a plan that always has failed in the past.

We need to strengthen not weaken our laws. Please oppose HB 77.

Kit Burns