

Doniece Gott

From: Lance Westing <lwesting@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:59 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I oppose HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I oppose HB 77. Water is too valuable to too many diverse users to limit the amount of public influence on its use. We should be instituting laws that would allow more public influence, not less.

Sincerely,

Lance Westing
PO BOX 622
Kotzebue, AK 99752
lwesting@hotmail.com
(907) 442-4474

April 3, 2012

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Committee

Re: Testimony on CSHB 77 (RES)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of the Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust. Over the last five years we have raised over \$1 Million Dollars to help fund instream flow reservations for fish. The irony for us is much of our effort is targeted for retroactive cancellation by the very State that encouraged us to do this work in the first place.



We ask that you don't rush to approve HB 77. Pause and make an effort to really understand Alaska water law. If you do I'm sure you will see how the State benefits from private instream flow reservations. We are always quick to support privatization of public services where it can be done cost effectively and without compromising the public interest. Our work is a perfect example of a public-private partnership. Fish & Game has the responsibility to protect fish - a difficult job in a vast state. Fish & Game does file most instream flow reservations, but can't be everywhere. We helped by raising more than a million dollars and collected the necessary hydrologic data on river systems that Fish & Game didn't have the resources to collect. Mission accomplished at no cost to Fish & Game.

If it truly is the policy of this state not to sacrifice one resource for another then private instream flow reservations can help. For example, how do we know in any particular place whether fish and mining can co-exist? Fish need water. Mines need water. If mines take too much water - fish die. How do we know how much water fish need to live? We can file instream flow reservations, collect the five years of hydrologic data DNR requires and calculate how much water must be left in a river or lake to support fish. Now DNR and a mining permit applicant know how much water is available and can design a mine accordingly.

What if a mine needs water that has been reserved for fish - does the reservation stop the mine? No. The mining company can ask the DNR Commissioner to vacate or modify the reservation. If the greater public interest favors the mine, fish can be sacrificed. If the greater public interest favors fish, the company must make other plans. An uncomfortable choice - Yes. But that's why we pay the Commissioner so well.

All that a private instream flow reservation really does is provide the private applicant standing in the adjudication process to assure that the public interest in fish is represented, that the Commissioner is considering the best available data, and if a choice must be made between fish and another resource it is not done arbitrarily. What's not to like about that?

Respectfully,

Tim Troll, Executive Director

P.O BOX 1388, DILLINGHAM, AK 99576; (907) 843-2832
Email: bbheritagelt@nushtel.com Website: www.bristolbaylandtrust.org

Doniece Gott

From: anissa berry <backlagoon@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 7:53 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: oppose HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Senator Meyers,

I ask that you submit these comments to the official written comments on the bill and add to the public record. I would like to be on record opposing HB 77. This bill is misguided because of its intention to allow industry to usurp in-flow water at the expense of salmon. Alaskans will lose out on our resources while foreign companies come to divert and pollute our rivers. I urge you to stand up and pay respect to Alaskans and not take away our rights as citizens to reserve in-flow water rights, while allowing corporations access to our valuable resource.

Thank you,
Anissa Berry
6105 Thane Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

Doniece Gott

From: Donald Witzel <witzdp@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:21 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Cc: Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson
Subject: HB77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I have grave concerns over HB77 and am trying to understand all the effects and consequences of this bill. Therefore, I support tabling the bill until more information is made available. For instance, who can provide a coherent explanation as to why this bill is important enough to be made law? Someone needs to explain to the public the long term ramifications of its passage. As I understand that the bill would limit the appeal process to only those immediately impacted by decisions made and limit the right of other citizens participation in the appeal process. Seems very restrictive. I have other concerns as well, but it seems to me that this bill is just the lead bill for future legislation that could pave the way for the Pebble Mine, limiting the ability of the citizens of Alaska to have input and appeal to that process. Set it aside until we get clear explanations.

Don Witzel
Palmer, AK

Doniece Gott

From: Carol Loftfield <cloftfield@hughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 7:25 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: testimony against Bill HB77 to be added to the public record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

Let these written comment be considered official testimony on the bill HB 77 and added to the public record. I am absolutely against HB 77 and I uphold the rights of Alaskans to apply to DNM to reserve water in rivers, streams and creeks throughout the state, including those of Bristol Bay.

HB 77 eliminates an individuals' or organizations' ability to request that water remain in a stream, river or lake for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreation. transportation and other uses. HB77 removes mandatory public notice and public periods for preliminary Best Interest Findings and limits who can participate when challenging decisions concerning Alaska's fishing and hunting resources. This Bill is dangerous and must not pass.

Sincerely,

Carol Loftfield
125 Main Street
Nondalton, AK 99640

Doniece Gott

From: Ted or Shelly Bryant <tednshelly@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:24 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I would like my comments be considered official written testimony on the bill and added to the public record.

I oppose HB 77. I think that this amendment put too much control into the hands of only a few people who are subject to lobbying and political influence. I think the resources we are talking about are too critical to all Alaskans, and even all American citizens, to be controlled by only a couple of individuals in determining what is "best" for Alaska's resources. I think our constitution was written in such a manner as to specifically prevent control by only a few individuals. All Alaskans should have the ability to oppose or encourage how our lands are managed. I suspect this bill is a back door attempt to limit public opposition to the Pebble Mine, but it also will affect all future land use measures that could be equally devastating to our Alaskan resources. Power in too few hands is just begging for abuse.

Sincerely,
Theodore Bryant
907-250-8360
Wasilla, AK 99654

Doniece Gott

From: Gabriela Husmann <gabrielahusmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:28 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I strongly oppose HB77.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Please don't take away every Alaskans right to keep water in our streams for healthy salmon. I urge you to not trade the water our sustainable fish need for one-time development projects. Thank you for listening to the Alaskan people.

I ask you to please consider my comments as official written testimony on the bill and added to the public record.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gabriela Husmann
53200 mc Neil pt
Homer, Ak, 99603

Doniece Gott

From: Cynthia Morelli <cmorelli@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:41 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Kevin Meyer,

I am writing to oppose HB77. It is important to maintain mandatory public notice and public comment periods for people to have a voice in our state policies. Fresh water resources are essential for life. Our health and well being relies on clean fresh water. As stewards, Alaskan voices must be heard. We as individuals and organizations must retain our rights to request that water remain in a stream, river or lake for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreation, transportation and other economic and cultural uses.

Please add my comments to the public record and take them into consideration as official written testimony on HB77.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Morelli
PO Box 1465
Homer, AK 99603

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Vandruff <koalaak@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: SB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Meyer-

I am writing regarding SB 77. I oppose it as it is now because it leaves out the public's voice in the use of our waterways. Please keep this precious resource for the good of all Alaskans.

I would like my comment to be added into the public record in today's hearing.

Thank You.

Deborah Vandruff
1820 Logan St
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Doniece Gott

From: Carolyn Nichols <carenichols@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 5:55 AM
To: Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen.MikeDunleavy@akleg.gov;
Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Click Bishop; Seb.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov
Subject: HB77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To even think of lowering protection for Alaskan waters is unexcusable.

Please fix HB77 and uphold Alaskans right to apply to DNR to reserve waters in rivers, streams and lakes throughout the state.

Without clean water, protected watersheds, and habitat protection all of Alaskas salmon fisheries are at serious risk.

Again to even think of lessening protection for such a amazing and important resource shows a total lack of regard for Alaska and all it is as well as for the people that depend on the resources for their livelihoods and the wildlife that has to have pristine habitat to continue on.

Thank You

Carolyn Nichols
111 Knutson Dr.
Sitka, AK 9983

Doniece Gott

From: Craig Matkin <comatkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 6:32 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Opposition to HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This message is my official opposition to HB 77 which is another attempt to reduce protections on clean water and salmon streams. Protection of salmon habitat is the bottom line in my opinion, having commercial fished, subsistence fished, and sport fished for forty years in this state. Please enter this message in the official public record and considered as written testimony against this ill-conceived bill

Thank you
Craig Matkin
2030 Mary Allen Ave
Homer, Alaska 99603

Doniece Gott

From: Dee Longenbaugh <deelong@alaska.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 5:33 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: RE: Water permits

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sen. Meyer,

Many of us are counting on you, as a good Alaskan, to keep our Constitution alive and well. All resources are to be used to the benefit of the citizens of Alaska. I have lived here 46 years, both in Sitka and Juneau. Sitka is especially a fishing town and Juneau has a surprisingly large fleet.

Water permits handed out with little regard for the devastation to salmon are simply wrong. Alaska salmon are world famous with good reason. Without them, our year-round residents would be hurting.

Gossip says the real purpose is to allow the Pebble Mine to be built. The offer of jobs there is as much of a joke as the North Slope hiring Alaskans. Miners will be brought in and can watch while the salmon streams are destroyed as will Bristol Bay forever. Is there a single case of a major mine truly cleaning up the mess they have made? No. They declare the company bankrupt and open under a new name. It could be amusing if it wasn't so devastating.

So - please, I implore you, vote against the water permitting changes.

Thank you.

Dee

Dee Longenbaugh
The Observatory, ABAA
www.observatorybooks.com
deelong@alaska.com
299 North Franklin Street
Juneau, Alaska, 99801
907/586-9676
Since 1977

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Doniece Gott

From: Fawn Silas <ntcfsilas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 5:37 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: oppose HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I oppose HB 77

Alaskans need more opportunities to protect salmon and our unique way of life, not less!

I am asking that my comment be considered an official written testimony on the bill and added to the public record.

Thanks-Fawn Silas

Doniece Gott

From: Lance Trasky <trasky@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2013 5:57 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am strongly opposed to HB 77. This is a regressive bill which would remove a citizens right to file to retain water in a water body to benefit fish, wildlife , navigation, and water supplies. It is very disturbing that the bill would remove mandatory public notices and the opportunity for members of the public to appeal bad ADNR decision's. I am very concerned that this is just another piece of the Governors plan to remove all protection for fish and wildlife to promote the mining industry over commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing.

Doniece Gott

From: charlotte tanner <caramello51@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:18 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77 PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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what is wrong with the Alaska legislature? trying to despoil Alaska... and also give it to the Oil Companies. We need clean water for our fish, which have been here longer than any of you guys. sincerely, Charlotte Tanner, PO 886, Ward Cove, Alaska 99928 Please enter this comment in the official comments.

Doniece Gott

From: J Malus <jmalus@sent.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:01 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: We oppose HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Senator Meyer:

Please enter my following comments as official written testimony on HB 77 add my comments in the public record. Thank you.

TESTIMONY:

My husband and I, and many other people who live in our community of Bethel, oppose HB 77. It undermines important standards for fish and wildlife, as well as the ability of Alaskans to participate in the management of resources that belong to ALL the people of Alaska.

HB77 eliminates an individual's or an organization's ability to request that water remain in a stream, river or lake for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreation, transportation and other economic and cultural uses.

HB 77 removes mandatory public notice and public comment periods for Preliminary Best Interest Findings and limits who can participate when challenging flawed decisions undermining Alaska's hunting and fishing resources.

Please fix HB 77 and uphold the rights of Alaskans to apply to the Dept of Natural Resources to reserve water in rivers, streams and creeks throughout the state, including those of Bristol Bay.

My husband told me today that he finds it disturbing that our state government takes an increasingly lax attitude toward the actions of large companies and the negative affects of their actions, yet some of our legislators favor laws and rules that are increasingly more restrictive toward the rights of individuals.

Please do the right thing and fix HB 77. Thank you.

Jody Malus

Doniece Gott

From: miss.gina01 <miss.gina01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:33 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Arsenic cleanup costs double at Yellowknife mine site

CBC NewsEye on the Arctic
March 27, 2013
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In the Northwest Territories, new documents show the cleanup costs for Yellowknife's arsenic-contaminated Giant Mine site will be close to a billion dollars.

RELATED:
[Beaver insurgency thwarted in Yellowknife subdivision](#)

That's double what officials with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development have said it would cost to remediate the former gold mine. The cleanup plan is currently in the final stages of an environmental review.

Doniece Gott

From: Deborah Heebner <deborahheebner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:23 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Cc: Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: HB 77 Senate Finance Hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Meyer,

I strongly oppose HB 77. I am requesting that my comments be considered official written testimony for the Senate Finance Hearing on the bill and added to the public record.

HB 77 critically erodes important standards in the state's regulatory process changing the law in several ways that limit the public's ability to participate in a meaningful way.

HB 77 diminishes existing rigor in DNR's process and lessens the public's ability to insure protections for fish and game. HB 77 takes away the right of the public, tribes, or other entities to apply to reserve water within streams in order to maintain sufficient flow various public interests including transportation, fish and wildlife protections, and water quality. I am very concerned that Alaska great public resources that are in trust to all Alaskans will be irreparably harmed without the public's ability to weigh in on important decisions made by a very few bureaucrats who are not concerned about the public interest or sustaining subsistence and fisheries resources for all of Alaskans.

Thank-you for considering this official written testimony for the official written testimony for the Senate Finance Hearing on the bill and adding this to the public record.

Sincerely,

Deborah K Heebner

P.O. Box 240942

Anchorage, AK 99524-0942

Doniece Gott

From: Carol Hoover <carol@redzone.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:50 PM
To: LIO Cordova; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Cc: Dune Lankard; Emily emily@redzone.org; Peter Knape; Paula Kemp; jamie@redzone.org
Subject: Re Eyak Preservation Council HB 77 TESTIFY
Attachments: HR 77 letter.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Cordova Legislative Office, Senator Kevin Meyer,

Please note the Eyak Preservation Council's mission is dedicated to the preservation of wild salmon habitat. It has come to our attention that HR 77 would:

(1) eliminate the rights of Alaskan residents and organizations to apply for and secure instream reservations of water for salmon; (2) allow state officials to cut Alaskans out of important reviews ("Best Interest Findings") for large resource development; and (3) severely limit Alaskans' rights to challenge flawed decisions by government officials.

The Eyak Preservation Council wants our email / letter (attached) included in the written testimony.

We are AGAINST HB 77. These loosening of citizens rights regarding our waterways and wild salmon habitat is NOT acceptable and is unfair, and harmful to our rights for healthy environments and for our renewable economic resources. The people have a right to determine their clean water standards - not only government and corporations.

- Alaskans have a right to healthy salmon and an obligation to protect them. Don't strip away our rights to keep water in our streams for healthy fish. It's unfair.

- Put fish first! When allocation decisions are made in streams, wild salmon should get a priority over other out of stream uses.

- We demand balance and regional and citizen input and power in decision-making regarding in our fish management decisions. DNR routinely processes water use applications for mining, oil and gas corporations, but it almost never processes the instream flow applications needed to keep clean water for fish.

- Governor Parnell has repeatedly promised he would "never trade one resource for another." Tell him to keep his word, don't trade the water that our sustainable, wild fish need for short-sighted development projects.

- Alaska salmon streams are warming, and salmon are becoming more vulnerable to pollution, predation and disease; it's more important than ever to keep clean habitable water in streams and waterways to ensure healthy fish.

Eyak Preservation Council
PO Box 460
Cordova, AK 99574
907.424.5890

Doniece Gott

From: ed czech <edddd26@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:51 PM
To: senate.finance.comite@akleg.gov; Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77 testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sirs,

Please make sure these comment are considered official written testimony and that they are added to the public record. Please do not Elminate the right of Alaskan's to apply for and secure instream reservations of water for salmon. Do not allow the passing of HB 77 which will take away the rights of alaskans in the context of large resource development to be cut out of the review Process. As a citizen of Alaska our water and Salmon do not belong to big corporations, Gov Parnell or outside special interests. Limiting public overview of projects such as these will be a gate way for destruction of our beloved natural resources. Protect wild Alaskan salmon. We do not want to poison our future generations with polluted water from coal runoff so that some corporation can make a quick buck and leave us the mess they created. Dont ever trade one resource for another like Gov. Parnell has said in the past. Keep Alaska pristine for future generations which could be your children. Stop house bill 77 at all costs.

Sincerely,

Edward J Czech
2757 E17th ave
Anchorage, Ak
99508

Doniece Gott

From: Barbara Pope <cupcakedog49@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:47 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

My husband and I both oppose the house bill HB77. We need to protect our waters for our wildlife. Please stop this bill.

Barbara and Steven Pope 67388 Kiana Drive Ninilchik, AK 99639

Doniece Gott

From: Bruce Baker <bhbaker@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:21 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

1:19 pm, Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Senator Meyer -

Please vote no on HB 787 and encourage others to do so as well. HB 77 threatens the rights of Alaskans to apply to DNR to reserve water in rivers, streams and creeks throughout the state, including those of Bristol Bay.

Please consider these comments to be public testimony and make them part of the public record.

Sincerely,

**Bruce Baker
P.O. Box 211384
Juneau, AK 99821**