



EYAK PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Protecting the ecosystem & Indigenous culture of the Copper River and Prince William Sound watersheds

April 3, 2013

Dear Cordova Legislative Office and Co-chair Kevin Meyer,

Please note the Eyak Preservation Council's mission is dedicated to the preservation of wild salmon habitat. It has come 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 is submitting our email / letter and is to be 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.

Carol Hoover
Eyak Preservation Council

Doniece Gott

From: Cynthia Monroe <cynthia@alaskalisten.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: HB 77 - Written Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Meyer,

Please consider this email to be formal, written, public testimony on HB 77, and include my comments in the public record of hearing on this bill.

I strongly urge the Senate Finance Committee NOT to pass HB77.

Alaskans' right to request protected water allocation in rivers, streams, and lakes is critical to our ability to protect and maintain our livelihoods. The principal effect I envision to curtailing citizen input through HB 77, would be to potentially facilitate resource extraction at the expense of Alaskans. I believe that Alaskans across the political spectrum, and across the spectrum from developer to environmentalist, would agree that Alaskan resources belong to Alaskans, not to the kinds of big and multinational corporations that would most benefit from bill.

Many Alaskans, even with jobs in extractive industries, recognize that extraction is a limited time engagement. We don't want to give up our right to continue to have a say in making sure that our waters and everything they mean to us-- from salmon to solace-- are still here when the commodity-du-jour is gone. If we really believe in responsible development, then let's be responsible. Let's not gut the democratic process that allows Alaskans to participate in the decisions that determine our health, livelihoods, and future.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Monroe
1410 H Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

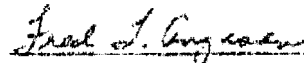
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION**P.O. BOX 310****DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576****Ph. (907) 842-5257 Fax (907) 842-5032****RESOLUTION 2013-04****A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SB 26 AND HB 77 AMENDING STATE WATER RIGHTS AND PERMITTING STATUTES**

- WHEREAS:** the Bristol Bay Native Association is an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation and a consortium of the 31 federally recognized tribes of the Bristol Bay region; and
- WHEREAS:** legislation has been introduced (SB 26 and HB 77) that would create significant barriers for Alaskans to participate in resource development decisions; and
- WHEREAS:** the proposed legislation gives the DNR commissioner broad authority to authorize activities through issuance of a general permit without a public process for determining activities that may be suitable for a standardized authorization, and it creates ambiguity regarding appeal rights from decisions to issue a general permit; and
- WHEREAS:** the proposed legislation limits administrative appeals to people "substantially and adversely affected" by a decision who "meaningfully participated" in the public comment process, and by doing so sets a new standard that is highly subjective and open to interpretation and could result in an inequitable or inconsistent application of the appeal right; and
- WHEREAS:** the proposed legislation gives the DNR commissioner unilateral authority to issue an unlimited number of new temporary water use authorizations for the same project, which means the use of a significant amount of water may be permitted for decades without the public ever having an opportunity to comment on the use; and
- WHEREAS:** the proposed legislation removes the ability of Tribes, organizations, and individuals to apply for a reservation of water and thus undercuts one of the most basic principles of water law in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS:** taking away a Tribe's right to water, and vesting that authority in State and federal agencies or municipal government only, lays the groundwork for years of litigation between the state and federal government (on behalf of Tribes) over a particular watershed; and

WHEREAS: BBNA has invested over \$500,000 in hydrological data for fourteen of the pending water reservation applications filed with DNR that would be nullified by the proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS: these water reservation applications were filed to protect fish and wildlife habitat as Alaskan residents, particularly Alaska Natives living in our region are highly dependent upon adequate stream flow and clean water that support the unparalleled salmon returns vital to subsistence and commercial fishing harvests that sustain our region.

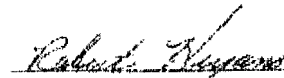
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association that it opposes SB 26 and HB 77 as it extends overreaching discretionary authority to the DNR commissioner, limits public involvement opportunities in decisions affecting water rights and land use, and strips individuals, Tribal governments and other entities from securing legally enforceable rights to maintain water levels critical for the life stages of salmon and other fish.



Fred T. Argasan, Chairman of the Board

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Bristol Bay Native Association, do hereby certify that the Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association passed the foregoing resolution at a duly called and noticed meeting on this 22nd day of March, 2013, and that a quorum was present.



Robert Heyano, Secretary

KODIAK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kodiak_LIO@alleg.gov
907-486-8116/ phone, 907-486-5264/fax:

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Levi Hohl, SOLDOTNA, AK
REPRESENTING: Alaska Fly Anglers INC + Self
BILL# / SUBJECT: HB 77
COMMITTEE & SENATE FINANCE
HEARING DATE: April 3, 2012

I am here to testify on behalf of myself, Levi Hohl and my brother John Hohl in opposition to HB77. We own and operate, Alaska Fly Anglers INC, basing in Southwest Alaska. Clean water and healthy salmon stocks are a requisite for our Alaska based company to be successful. To deny the citizenry the right to petition for water rights denies Alaskans a voice in management of our resources. I oppose this bill and the loss of rights it entails. Thank You

Doniece Gott

From: Jolynne Howard <jhoward@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:39 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I oppose HB77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Senator Meyer and Senate Finance Committee,

As presently written, HB77 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 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 fishing and hunting resources.

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

Jolynne Howard, MAI
Howard & Associates
200 West 34th Avenue #348
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-561-1170

Doniece Gott

From: A. Staiger <ahsha1948@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:40 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: I oppose bill HB 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please include this as written testimony and add this to official public record.

My name is Ahsha Staiger and I am a resident and registered voter of the state of Alaska.

I oppose Bill HB77 because it limits my right as a citizen and a resident to appeal directly to the Department of Natural Resources.

My greatest concern as fisherman and an avid outdoor enthusiast is my ability to be involved in the waters I make my money in and spend my recreational time in, I need to be able to have a voice DIRECTLY to that office. Any wording in this bill restricting my ability to communicate my concerns is offensive.

I respectfully submit this for your consideration
Ahsha Staiger

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 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Formal written testimony on HB77

Testimony

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

From: James V. Warner [<mailto:jvwarner@me.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:36 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Formal written testimony on HB77

Senator Meyer:

I am writing in opposition to HB77. As I understand it, this bill eliminates an individuals' or organizations' ability to request that water remain in a streams, rivers or lakes for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreation, transportation, and other economic and cultural uses. It also removes mandatory public notice and comment periods for preliminary Best Interest Findings, and limits who can challenge decisions that undermining the effective management of Alaska's natural resources for the benefit of all citizens.

Article 8 of our state constitution makes the framer's intentions clear, "all natural resources in this state will be managed for the maximum benefit of its people." I find it hard to imagine a situation where removing public comment concerning the use of these resources is in the best interests of the people. Limiting who can challenge administrative decisions concerning our natural resources is not only potentially unconstitutional, but unjust. It removes the public's ability to counteract damaging administrative decisions that may have been influenced by short-term political goals or alliances.

Sir, I strongly urge you to oppose HB77 as I do. Please consider this my formal written testimony as a concerned Alaska citizen.

Sincerely,
James V. Warner
1410 H
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Daniel Chythlook
P.O. Box 11
Aleknagik, Alaska 99555
April 3, 2013

Senator Kevin Meyers, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska 99821

RE: House Bill 77

Dear Senator Meyers,

As a concerned Native Alaskan I am asking that the Senate Finance Committee fix the current language on House Bill 77 because the way it is currently written it would affect the public, tribes, non-profits and individuals access to reserving water in rivers, streams and creeks to apply for in-stream flow reservations to maintain sufficient flow to further protect our anadromous salmon and fresh water fish species which return annually to these creeks, rivers and streams to spawn and rear their young.

We as Native Alaskan's have depended upon these fish species and animals since time immemorial as part of our annual traditional and customary gathering of our traditional food resources.

The way House Bill 77 is written would diminish the existing rigor of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources' (ADNR's) process to continue protecting our waters.

Furthermore, House Bill 77, would impact both the commercial drift and set gillnet fisheries within Bristol Bay which also both depends on clean water to catch the returning anadromous salmon fish species to feed their families, pay bills and survive the winter months, on an annual basis.

Again the current language within House Bill 77 would allow the State of Alaska to grant exploratory permits to special interest groups such as oil and gas companies, mining companies, granting access to these waters, which could greatly impact the water quality in which our fish and game species depend upon to survive.

The current language included in House Bill 77 would also be removing a required mandatory notice and comment period for the ADNR's preliminary Best Interest Findings.

Currently the language written in the Alaska Constitution mandates the sustainability of all our natural resources both in the waters and land.

Alaskans need more opportunities to preserve salmon and our unique way of life, not less.

Please consider my comments as my official written testimony on the bill and be added to the public record.

Sincerely,



Daniel Chythlook

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: H B 77

Testimony

From: Matt Price [<mailto:mattalaska007@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:11 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: H B 77

Hello Senator Meyer-

I'm writing you in order to state my opposition to HB 77. I believe it's a bad law for the people of Alaska and especially for the land, water and wildlife.

It's wrong to take decisions concerning the state lands out of the hands of the people and leave them up to a few people(appointed officials or elected) who could easily be swayed by big corporate money/ donations.

I have a small sport fish guide business in King Salmon and have been guiding in the area for 17 years.

Please consider my comments as official written testimony and add them to the public record.

Thank you,

Matt Price
Price's Guide Service
907/439-1777

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: HB 77

Testimony

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

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: David Athons <dathons@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 2:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB 77

When I called in to testify against HB 77 I was told it was possible there would not be time to take my testimony due to large numbers of Alaskan's wishing to testify. Please include my comments in your official record.

I am opposed to HB 77. Salmon are Alaska's premier renewable resource. They provide not only economic stability and diversity but food for our families. Please protect the rights of Alaskan's to reserve and protect water for these valuable fisheries resources. These resources should not be compromised by short term corporate profits due to non-renewable resource development.

Thank you,
David Athons
36655 River Hills
Kenai, AK 99611

Doniece Gott

From: ed czech <edddd26@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 1:56 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB 77 testimony

Dear Sirs,

Please make sure these comment are considered official written testimony and that they are added to the public record. Please do not Eliminate 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: rainbo love <girdwoodrainbo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:08 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Hb77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Meyer,

My name is Rainbo Herfindahl and I am a natural born citizen of Alaska. I would like this email to be added to the records as my sworn official written testimony. I oppose house bill 77. It is essential to the future of Alaska that we are allowed to have mandatory public hearings about topics related to our land and waters! I realized that it is time consuming for our voices to be heard. Public testimony is essential to keeping the decisions that are made about our land and waters in the best interest of the people!

Sincerely,

Rainbo Herfindahl

PO box 1277

Girdwood, ak

99587

Doniece Gott

From: Sam Steen <sammysteenphotography@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:09 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Attention Senator Meyer,

Alaskans need more opportunities to preserve salmon and our unique way of life, not less. The Alaska Constitution mandates the sustainability of our resources. This bill ends public access to reserving water in streams and leaves out in the cold, after years of investment and data collection, a variety of tribes, non-profits and individuals who have sought instream flow reservations on behalf of fish habitat and other economic and cultural interests. Please fix HB 77 to protect Alaskans' right to apply to reserve water within streams to maintain sufficient flow for the protection of various public interests including transportation, fish and wildlife protections, and water quality. As a steward of Alaska's Environment and a third generation Bristol Bay fisherman i feel this bill is detrimental to Alaska's future.

All the best,
Sammy Steen

Doniece Gott

From: James Glover <jamesglover100@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:11 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Hb 77

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senator Meyer,

My name is James Glover and I am a citizen of Alaska. I would like this email to be added to the records as my sworn official written testimony. I oppose house bill 77. It is essential to the future of Alaska that we are allowed to have mandatory public hearings about topics related to our land and waters! I realized that it is time consuming for our voices to be heard. Public testimony is essential to keeping the decisions that are made about our land and waters in the best interest of the people!

Sincerely,

James Glover

PO box 613

Girdwood, ak

99587

907-350-7785 cell

Doniece Gott

From: Willow & Antonio <willowantonio@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 12:26 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Antonio Monterrosa; melissa@renewak.org; Rep. Lance Pruitt; lance@lancepruitt.com; anna@annafairclough.com
Subject: Please add my opposition to HB 77 to public record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I strongly oppose HB 77. The right to ask for clean water to benefit wildlife & recreation is the most basic safeguard that Alaskan PEOPLE have to stop greedy corporations from destroying habitat for short-lived gains (mostly paid out to foreigners).

Alaskan PEOPLE vote for politicians to represent them. Politicians are obligated to serve Alaskan PEOPLE's best interests, not corporations'.

Yes, I know that corporations pay your campaign bills and expect big favors from you in return. That's why Alaskan PEOPLE have so little faith in our politicians anymore.

Politicians: Please have a spine. Tell the corporations who expect you to vote Yes on HB 77 that:

- you are actually going to vote NO on HB 77
- you are not owned by foreign corporations who will be long gone when the polluted dams spill cyanide and mercury into our waters
- corporate pollution of our waters is unacceptable, and the "science" they pay so much to spin is worthless
- watching foreign companies rape our land for the short-term profit of non-Alaskans does NOT help the Alaskan PEOPLE you represent
- you'd rather see Alaskan PEOPLE use our waters to harvest food, earn money, and garner tourism dollars FOREVER

Any politician who votes NO on HB 77 wins my votes for as long as they continue seeking office.

Please consider these comments official public testimony, and please add them to the public record.

Respectfully,

Antonio Monterrosa
2121 Banbury Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504
907.333.3233 (home)
303.889.9506 (cell/text)

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 77

April 2, 2013

To: The Honorable Sen.Kevin.Meyer@akleg.gov

Co-chair Senate Finance Committee

Alaska State Legislature

Dear Senator Meyer and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my sentiments as a long time Alaska resident, fisherman, and journalist. I ask that these comments be considered official written testimony and entered into the public record.

This measure has a number of flaws that raised red flags for me as a citizen and steward of our states renewable resources. First, It appears to be wholly written for the benefit of streamlining oil and gas land transactions. Second, it pre-empts the time for the public to become aware, digest, and then respond to any such transactions. And, third, nowhere in this document, which treats with lands criss-crossed with spawning streams, caribou and other wild animal habitats including migrating birds like swans, do I find the word 'salmon'. Plus, we now have another ominous sounding indefinable phrase to wrangle over: Best Interest Finding.

As written the bill explicitly removes the public from any prior knowledge or means to comment on any oil and gas related transactions. It will only be three months after the event that the public will even know it has occurred. This is a travesty and should be stricken completely from the bill, should this bad measure even go any farther. Because the requirements of extraction in this industry are generally so disruptive to the natural environment, full disclosure and debate needs to remain in place.

(c) The [IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN

03 AS 38.50.090, THE] agencies referred to in (b) of this section and other state agencies

04 with authority to acquire or dispose of land shall give written notification of the fact of

05 acquisition, lease, disposal, or exchange to the commissioner not later than

06 [WITHIN] three months after the date that they make the acquisition, lease, disposal, etc.

Now I draw your attention to this section of the measure, which casts even more doubt on the fairness and equitability of these land transactions. That little word 'if' clearly means in this context that public hearings may legally be dispensed with at the whim of the director, commissioner and/or the lobbyists writing verbiage for them:

(A) before a public hearing, if held, or in any case not less than

14 180 days before the sale, lease, or other disposal of available land or an interest

15 in land, the director shall make available to the public a preliminary written

16 finding that states the scope of the review established under (1)(A) of this, etc.

Never mind that a public comment may be heard *after the preliminary written finding*. This eliminates any perception of a level playing field. The first word always carries the most weight: it must be defended or contested. Therefore, it better reflect the most careful consideration.

J. Penelope Goforth

And finally, but most importantly, this bill completely ignores the existence of Alaska's premier renewable resource, that creates thousands of jobs annually, pumps billions of dollars through the economy, and provides millions of people with healthy nutritious meals. Where is the acknowledgement of the importance of the habitat of the salmon?? The primary duty of the state is to protect the waters and lands of state while sanctioning responsible and safe development. The first consideration of every elected, appointed, and hired official of this state should reflect that duty to preserve, conserve and further, enhance, renewable resources. Particularly those of such magnitude such as the salmon fishery.

The primary criterion for a Best Preliminary Finding should be that it enhances the renewable resources of Alaska and is based on the input of all stakeholders from the very beginning. You could go even further to define the cause for any next steps by requiring that any Preliminary Finding meet that standard. A Best finding is one that supports and enhances all resources. A Middling Finding should clearly outline conflicting results. And a Worst Finding determines that damage and conflict would arise. If a Best Preliminary Finding is determined, then fine, let's get on with figuring out how responsible development can occur.

In my opinion, as presented this bill tramples on the rights of Alaskans to take part in the decision making process, does not offer any acknowledgement much less consideration for renewable resources such as salmon and other wildlife, and sets up vague definitions as legal criterion for important decisions that become the law of the land.

I ask your full consideration of these points as you consider this measure, and further, that you do not pass it. Again, thank you for all you do for Alaska and for the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Respectfully yours,



J. Penelope Goforth



CC: The Honorable Representative Les Gara
The Honorable Representative Bryce Edgmon
The Honorable Representative Alan Austerman
The Honorable Representative Neal Foster
The Honorable Representative Beth Kertulla
The Honorable Representative Bob Herron
The Honorable Senator Johnny Ellis
The Honorable Senator Bill Wielechowski
The Honorable Senator Gary Stevens

Doniece Gott

From: Donna Lee <kovianak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 11:29 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sam and I appose HB 77. Please don't pass legislation that take the initiative away from the people of Alaska. That's what HB77 would do.

Sincerely,

Donna Lee and The Rev. Sam Wright

P.O. Box 1193

Chickaloon, AK 99674

kovianak@gmail.com

and

Brooks Range, Alaska

Just east of the Dalton Highway

on Bob Johnson Lake