



**Alaskans for Litter  
Prevention & Recycling**  
*Keeping Alaska beautiful*

March 29, 2013

Senator Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair, Senate Finance  
Senator Pete Kelly, Co-Chair, Senate Finance  
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Sen. Meyer and Sen. Kelly,

RE: Testimony for SB 18 Capital Budget: Support for Japan Tsunami Debris /  
Marine Debris Cleanup Funding at \$5,000,000

On behalf of the ALPAR Board of Directors, I would like to voice our support for capital budget funding of \$5 million for cleanup of Alaska's coastlines impacted by debris from the Japan Tsunami as well as other unidentified marine debris. Studies by NOAA, State of Alaska DEC and others confirm that Alaska is significantly more impacted by this debris coming ashore than other west coast states and Hawaii. The cost of cleaning our remote and high-energy beaches is exponentially higher as well.

ALPAR has provided funding for and assisted with litter clean up for Alaska's communities since 1982. We believe that Alaska has never before faced a litter and debris pollution issue of this magnitude and that we, as a state, must move forward as quickly as possible to mitigate the negative impacts to fish and wildlife as well as our view sheds particularly in light of the increasing difficulty and higher costs of removing the debris as it is broken up and disbursed over larger areas.

Alaska's communities, non-profits and the federal government will play a role in this effort as well, but leadership and resources should also come from the State of Alaska. Just as any homeowner in Alaska is responsible for removing litter and pollution from their property no matter where it came from, so is the State of Alaska obligated. We feel it is imperative that the State meet this obligation to our land and our people.

We appreciate your commitment to the stewardship of our coastline and beaches and protecting our fish and wildlife from the negative impacts of this disaster that will continue to impact significant areas in Alaska for a number of years.

Sincerely,

Mary Fisher  
Executive Director

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mary Fisher

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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