Thank you Members of the Finance Committee for taking my testimony

April 3, 2013

I am writing about HB 77, SB26, SB27.

Comment made by Eric Feige, Chickaloon, “theme of the bill… more efficiency, bring better service to the public and streamline our permitting system.”

If the theme is to bring better service, why are we proposing to eliminate the requirement of public notification of proposed actions that will affect our water, both in the ability to apply for its use and to comment on its use by others?

Does streamline mean leaving the public out? Is that in OUR best interest?

Further the bill proposes that the commissioner decides on which permit applications won’t cause irreparable damage?

Does this signal the end of public process here?

If we have a backlog of permit applications, wouldn’t it be possible to temporarily hire people to review these applications, or get an independent reviewer to get us caught up?

Thank you for your time and holding the hearing. I apologize for dropping off of the list, unfortunately I had another appointment.

Respectfully,

Betsey Burdett

Ketchikan