



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603
907 235.8214
kbayconservation@gmail.com

February 4, 2013

Dear State Legislators,

RE: HB78 & SB27-Regulation of Dredge and Fill Activities

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) opposes HB78 & SB27 for the following reasons:

1. Gov. Parnell proposes to allow the Departments of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Conservation to take control of permitting dredge and fill activities. By removing the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our wetlands would no longer have the protection of the federal National Environmental Policy Act process. KBCS feels that this is yet another attempt of the governor to permit irresponsible resource development of Alaskan wetlands.
2. Historically this program has proven to be extremely expensive to administer.
3. Wetlands are such an imperative resource for the ecosystem and all the wildlife that depends on that ecosystem. They also are essential for flood control and filtering waters before they enter streams, lakes, & oceans; thus protecting wetlands is essential.
4. Wetlands are recognized as important features in the landscape that provide numerous beneficial services for people and for fish and wildlife. Some of these services, or functions, include protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. These beneficial services, considered valuable to societies worldwide, are the result of the inherent and unique natural characteristics of wetlands.

KBCS feels that protecting wetlands is becoming more important as climate change and global warming cause's sea level rising and super storms. It is in the state's best interest to protect and save wetlands for future generations.

Sincerely,

Roberta Highland, President
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
3734 Ben Walters Lane
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8214
kbayconservation@gmail.com
www.kbayconservation.org