

SB 70: GAS PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY; PARKS; RECREATION AREAS

BRIEFING PAPER

FOR THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE • MARCH 9, 2015

SB 70 is necessary to open a corridor through four state legislatively designated areas (Denali State Park and Willow Creek, Nancy Lake, and Captain Cook State Recreation Areas) to the right of way leasing act for the purpose of construction a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope of Alaska.

The bill would accomplish the following primary objectives:

- 1) Authorize the issuance of a right of way lease under AS38.35, the Pipeline Right of Way Leasing Act for a gas pipeline in an identified corridor through Denali State Park and Willow Creek, Nancy Lake, and Captain Cook State Recreation Areas.
- 2) Require the corridor to be managed as parkland and recreation areas until leased under 38.35 and returned to original park and recreation area management upon termination of the lease.
- 3) Provides supplemental requirements to reserve traditional means of public access and minimize the impact of a pipeline on the specific values of park and recreation areas.
- 4) Clarifies the DNR Commissioner's power to delegate condemnation authority to the lessee does not apply within the bounds of the park and recreation areas.
- 5) Requires the gas pipeline lease be issued before January 1, 2020

Why the bill is needed:

The parks at issue are special use sites, reserved from the public domain by the legislature pursuant to Article VIII, Sec. 7 of the Alaska Constitution. As a result, they are not, without legislative action, open for leasing under AS 38.35.

Why this bill does not include State game refuges and DNR Susitna Basin Rec Rivers:

Although some restrictions on multiple use are imposed on the state game refuges and rivers, these areas are not closed to leasing under AS 38.35 where a lease would be compatible with the purposes of the reserves.

Does the corridor specified in the bill suffice for both the ASAP and AKLNG Projects:

AGDC and AKLNG have worked cooperatively to select a common alignment for both projects. AGDC has completed its route revision to the common alignment and are now calling it Rev. 6.1. Field efforts for both projects have changed to reflect the common alignment as evidenced in the geo-technical site locations currently being conducted within Denali State Park.