



HOLLIS SCHOOL  
SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

101 School Loop Road  
Hollis, Alaska

PO Box 803  
Craig Alaska 99921  
Telephone: 907-530-7108  
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E-mail: [jvasquez@sisd.org](mailto:jvasquez@sisd.org)  
[lcates@sisd.org](mailto:lcates@sisd.org)

March 2, 2015

Greg Patz, Southcoast Region Maintenance & Operations Superintendent  
Southcoast Region Headquarters  
6860 Glacier Highway  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Patz,

We are Hollis School. We have heard that the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities is going to spray herbicides (chemicals) between Thorne Bay and Klawock on Prince of Wales Island. We understand spraying herbicides is to kill invasive species that do not belong here and tall plants to make sure people can see road signs and around curves for safety.

We have had people speak to us that are against spraying chemicals on our island. They are against spraying because it will kill the plants, the fish, the bear, maybe even the people and their dogs. But we don't know.

We just want more information about the spraying of the herbicides. We need information from the people who are for the idea of spraying. We need to know if it is worth spraying the herbicides. We don't know if it will kill plants and harm our island or harm us. We don't want to be told what we should think; we want to make our own decisions about the issue of spraying. So, we want to talk to people with different points of view so we can figure out what we think about the idea of spraying and then, come up with a solution that will work best for everybody in our community.

We were wondering if you could talk to us about the spraying and why the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities wants to spray on this island.

In the meantime, ideas we have are that maybe we could do a test to see if it is really poisonous. Maybe we could get volunteers to mow instead of spraying. We would help.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this request. We look forward from hearing from you.

With sincere respect and appreciation,

JOSE

Ben moody  
Chloe

Myles Starkweather

TIP+ on  
Kolt on

Isaac

ACJ

Clayton K.  
music

Josh J.

Primary, Intermediate and High School Students  
Hollis School

cc: Governor Bill Walker  
Senator Bert Stedman, District R  
Representative Jonathon Kreiss-Tompkins  
Senator Peter Micciche, Senate Transportation Committee Chair  
Senator Click Bishop, Senate Transportation Committee Vice Chair  
Representative Neal Foster, House Transportation Committee Co-Chair  
Representative Shelley Hughes, House Transportation Committee Co-Chair  
Mark Luiken, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Chuck Correa, Southcoast Division Director



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March 10, 2015

Alaska State Legislature  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Testimony before the House Department of Transportation Committee RE:  
House Bill 53: "An Act relating to the application of pesticides and broadcast  
chemicals in certain public places near fish habitat or water used for human  
consumption and on state- owned land, land leased by or to the state, state  
highways, and state-owned rights-of- way."

Dear Representative Hughes,

I am sharing my testimony in anticipation of the March 10, 2015 Alaska House of  
Representatives Transportation Committee hearing on House Bill 53. Please do  
not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions, suggestions or  
concerns.

My teacher is e-mailing this for me as I do not have an e-mail address. Please  
reply to her, [lcates@sisd.org](mailto:lcates@sisd.org), if you have any questions for me.

Respectfully submitted,

Clayton Music  
Craig, Alaska

Clayton Music's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department  
of Transportation Committee. My name is Clayton Music and I am a High School  
Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am here representing  
myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House  
Bill 53.

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I support this bill because the government should operate with citizens' opinions instead of without. Without people's opinions, it makes it not fair. With input you can make better decisions, without it, you could destroy someone's way of life.

In my case, my dad owns the only cab company on the island. He brings tourists to and from the ferry. If there are chemicals sprayed, tourists that typically come to see the flora and fauna of our island will go elsewhere. If the tourists stop coming, there will be no way for my dad to pay the bills.

If his cab company had to close, my dad's workers would be out of a job. With more people out of work, the stores would have to reduce hours or reduce workers. Also, it would make it harder for people on the island who rely upon the cab company for transportation.

Without input, people who decide whether to spray or not would not know this. Even if spraying is cheaper in the short run, with all the jobs lost, it could be more expensive in the long run.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

**\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\***



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reply to her, [lcates@sisd.org](mailto:lcates@sisd.org), if you have any questions for me.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjermin Moots  
Craig, Alaska

Benjermin Moots's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Honorable Members of the House of  
Representatives Transportation Committee. My name is Benjermin Moots and I  
am an Intermediate School Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I  
am here representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House  
Bill 53.

People should have a voice so they can know more about an issue, and what it  
can do to the environment. State departments should talk to the community so  
they can get more information before they decide to spray or not to spray.

They need to know about my brother Titus. He came to speak to Hollis School about commercial fishing and why it is important to the State of Alaska's economy. Fishing is how he makes his money. People will not want to work on his boat because the fish may be contaminated. Fisherman will lose their jobs, they will not have money and then the stores will not make money, more people will lose their jobs and more businesses would close.

Fishing is a huge part of our state and we need to make sure that people who make decisions like spraying that could harm our fish have information from everyone who could be involved.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

CJ Vasquez  
Hollis, Alaska

CJ Vasquez's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department of  
Transportation Committee. My name is CJ Vasquez and I am a Primary Student at  
Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House Bill  
53.

They should tell us before they spray. They should ask us what we think about it.  
We live here; we should have a say. If they do it (spray chemicals) right away, if we  
did not know, we could eat the fish and we could die.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Chloe Vasquez  
Hollis, Alaska

Chloe Vasquez's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department of Transportation Committee. My name is Chloe Vasquez and I am a Primary Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am here representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House Bill 53.

Before they spray they should make signs and let people vote if they that want to spray or not want to spray vote. They should not be able to spray on the island. They should not spray near the water and there is water everywhere here. They should ask the people on our island before they spray. Why don't they spray on their own island? They are the ones that want to spray.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Myles Starkweather  
Hollis, Alaska

Myles Starkweather's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department  
of Transportation Committee. My name is Myles Starkweather and I am an  
Intermediate School Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am  
here representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House  
Bill 53.

Why is it important for people to be able to speak out, to be heard? You do not know if the person that has not been heard has something that would help the State Department of Transportation to make a better decision.

They need to know about families like mine who rely on subsistence to live. We harvest just about everything in the wild that people can eat. This includes food from the ocean and streams to include salmon, halibut, shrimp and crab. We also eat wild plants found along the waters edge like sea asparagus. We pick berries to include salmon berries and, my favorite, thimble berries all summer long. My family is worried that spraying the herbicides could kill all of our food supply.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Kolton Joseph Tipton  
Craig, Alaska

Kolton Joseph Tipton's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department of Transportation Committee. My name is Kolton Joseph Tipton and I am a Primary Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House Bill 53.

They shouldn't spray chemicals on our island, Prince of Wales Island. The chemicals will kill all of our good plants that we eat. They will spray the grass. The deer eat the grass. People eat the deer. Then the people will be filled with the chemicals.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Smith  
Craig, Alaska

Joshua Smith's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department  
of Transportation Committee. My name is Joshua Smith and I am a High School  
Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am here representing  
myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House  
Bill 53.

I support House Bill 53 because people should have input. People who live on  
Prince of Wales Island know more about the environment on the island than  
decision makers working in an office in Juneau. I think all of you, and I, can  
agree that we do not want uninformed people to make decisions that adversely  
impact the people and the environment. We cannot just think about our selves,

there are also the animals. Those decisions could make it more challenging for the people that live on our island and for others that do not but, like tourists and restaurants, rely on our fish.

My mom makes money helping to unload, pack and ship seafood to other places all around the world. That is how we are able to make a living. Working there is her favorite job. If the spraying ruins the fishing industry, innocent workers like my mom will lose their jobs. My mom's goal is to be able to keep a roof over my head, food on the table and clothes on my back. During summers, when we get a chance, my mom and I find a way to pick berries along the road to give to elders for them to make jam for people. If they spray, the berries will be gone. My mom also grows organic fruit and vegetables in our garden for elders and local children. We do not want to give them contaminated produce.

Our island is a karst system. Anything (any chemical) that enters our water system in any place will contaminate our entire island.

I believe it would be best to ask locals like the Forest Service, Fish and Game and people who have lived here for a long time to find the best way to have a more controlled spray so that it would do little to no damage to our Prince of Wales Island environment.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Jose Vasquez  
Hollis, Alaska

Jose Vasquez's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department  
of Transportation Committee. My name is Jose Vasquez and I am a Primary  
Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am here representing  
myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House  
Bill 53.

I feel sad when people do things without asking what I think. They should ask  
first before they spray chemicals on Prince of Wales Island.

It they spray chemicals, they will kill the trees, our dogs, the grass, the birds and mostly, our food which includes the berries. I worry about our plants, our water,

our garden and our fish. They should not spray chemicals on our island. I will help pull the weeds.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*



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Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Starkweather  
Hollis, Alaska

Isaac Starkweather's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and honorable members of the House Department of Transportation Committee. My name is Isaac Starkweather and I am a Primary Student at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am here representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House Bill 53.

They should ask the people on the island before they spray chemicals to make sure that they (the people doing the spraying) do not kill anything that the people on the island have.

I am worried about the spraying because my dog goes outside to eat stuff and if the poison gets in the food that he eats, he will get really sick. I don't want my dog to die.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

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Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Musser  
Hollis and Naukati, Alaska

Tyler Musser's March 10, 2015 Testimony on House Bill 53:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Honorable members of the House Department of Transportation Committee. My name is Tyler Musser and I am a Primary Students at Hollis School on Prince of Wales Island. I am representing myself.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my testimony about House Bill 53.

They should ask us before they spray so we know what is happening. I say, "Don't spray chemicals." Spraying will kill the animals. It will kill the fish and pollute the water. The chemicals could get into our garden and that will kill our food. The water is important because we drink the water and we will get sick.

Thank you for your kind attention to my remarks. Do you have any questions?

\*\*\*End of Testimony\*\*\*