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Chairman and Honored Members Alaska State House, Transportation Committee:

It is my understanding that you will be hearing and receiving comments Tuesday on HB 53 sponsored by Representatives Kreiss-Tomkins, Ortiz, Gara and Josephson. I appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments, and will make a concerted effort to be at the Anchorage LIO to hear the meeting.

As a leader in the Pest Management industry here in Alaska, I have been involved in many local and state initiatives on the subject of pesticides over the past 3 decades, including part of the regulations that this bill is addressing. The first of this two part proposal (re **AS 46.03.320(c)**) appears to be merely a language adjustment, but I urge this committee to be alert to any attempt to change the meaning of the original adoption. Industry and the Legislature worked very hard to make it no more restrictive than it now is. Please be aware that Alaska has one of the most onerous sets of regulation on notification in the US, and I am frequently confronted by national groups' amazement at the strong arm of the environmental movement here and its attempt to keep Alaska out of many opportunities for outside investment. I am pleased to inform you that, as a leading state-wide company, the frequency with which our work falls under this sub-section is really quite small, but efforts to add more anti-pesticide legislation to our business will only result in significant personal loss, and increased pest damage, to the citizens of this State.

The second part of the document, appears to be a knee-jerk reaction to the 2013 regulation changes (**18 AAC 90.640-650**) made by ADEC/Pesticide to make the process of using an approved chemical without creating a huge back-log in their work agenda. For many years, decisions to use an EPA approved (safety OVER reviewed) chemical on public rights of way and State lands has almost always resulted in eventual approval after hours and months of public hearings etc. This is because there is already a major process in place for analyzing chemicals on the Federal level. Not only in regard to human concerns, but more recently as they relate to endangered and other wildlife. The manufacturers who are producing these products have gone over them with a fine toothed comb, providing reams and reams of documentation and label restrictions to meet these Federal standards. There is frankly NO REASON for the back-handed obstructionism of the environmentalist proponents of this wording. If you look at the recently enacted regulation, you will see that many of the goals stated in this Bill have already been included. If the desire is to codify it in **AS 46.03.320**, I would recommend cutting and pasting **18 AAC 90.640-650** into section 2 of this bill in lieu of its present language.

It is my opinion, shared by many others I have spoken to, that those who are opposed to chemical controls want to return to abusing the public process to delay, delay, and delay, while adding an extensive physical and monetary burden on the State of Alaska. While many who know me are aware that I am not a huge fan of ADEC/Pesticide in certain areas, at least I do not stoop to these blatantly obstructionist levels to be heard. In addition, with the current level of concern about the budgets now and coming, this body should be pleased at the streamlining of the process by ADEC/Pesticide in the 2013 language.

Respectfully,

Kenneth J (Ken) Perry
President/General Manager
Pied Piper Pest Control