

Ginger Blaisdell

From: Debra Banaszak
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Ginger Blaisdell
Subject: FW: Letter in support of HB 53

From: alaskanrn2@gmail.com [mailto:alaskanrn2@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 11:40 AM
To: Debra Banaszak
Subject: Re: Letter in support of HB 53

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to lend my whole hearted support for this bill. As a registered nurse I am concerned with the health impacts of pesticide use on our population . I am also concerned with herbicide/pesticide application on our lands which hold an abundance of salmon spawning streams. As past president of the Alaska Nurses Association, I am pleased in our record of the precautionary principle and resolutions passed banning wide spread application of pesticides. As a burgeoning commercial organic farmer I am concerned with application and aerial contamination and the financial impacts it might pose on my produce. As Alaskans with a relative pristine environment I see the real possibility to fulfill the ever-growing demand for organic or pesticide free market and would not want to diminish our opportunities statewide.

If you would like supporting data on glyphosates and others and their detrimental impacts I would be happy to supply you with such.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Susan E Walsh
1252 Upper Millar
Ketchikan, AK.
99901

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Debra Banaszak
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 11:13 AM
To: alaskanrn2@gmail.com

Hello Susan,

I found your email and wondering if you could send the letter to my email...that way I can get it to the Committee faster. Thanks,

– House Bill 53 –

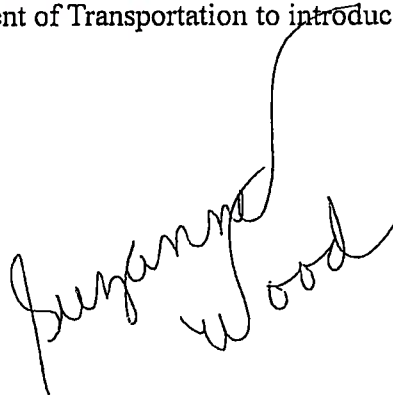
LIO Testimony to House Transportation Committee

by Suzanne Wood

10 March 2015

1. My name is Suzanne Wood and I'm representing myself. A resident of Petersburg, Alaska since October 1993, I have been a self-employed commercial fisherman in Southeast Alaska for over 22 years.
2. I am writing in support of House Bill 53.
3. While HB 53 may not, by itself, prevent the usage of chemical agents on humans, fish, wildlife, and other living organisms, it should bring to light the potential harmful and long-term ramifications of their usage by requiring public participation in an open meeting before any chemical spraying is authorized by State of Alaska agency officials.
4. Residue from roadside spraying may, through airborne drift, end up far afield from its intended point of ground contact and is likely to contaminate all roadside streams through runoff due to the moist maritime climate, particularly in Southeast Alaska. This has the potential to unintentionally introduce harmful toxins, and have detrimental long-term impact on humans, fish and wildlife, beneficial subsistence vegetation like blueberry bushes, and other organisms.
5. Living out of town in a more rural location with no access to the Petersburg Borough's residential water resource, the stream that I use extensively for personal use has been granted water rights since 1970, and back permitted to 1961. This stream flows under the Mitkof Highway, which could be subjected to chemical applications on both the uphill, and downhill sides of the right-of-way, effectively doubling the amount of chemical agent that my family is subjected to by using my family's state authorized water usage. This creek runs out into the Wrangell Narrows amidst anadromous salmon, Dungeness and Tanner crab, and other resident marine mammals including killer whale, sea lion, and harbor seal.
6. My family's organic garden is watered using hillside runoff authorized by the State through our long held water rights. Roadside chemical spraying destroys any semblance of organic gardening by introducing chemical agents and toxins directly into our food chain by usage of what is otherwise a pristine, uncontaminated water source. In many cases, herbicides are toxic to beneficial soil organisms, such as bacteria that help break down the soil, and help bring in the nutrients plants need. Herbicides have been shown to kill helpful soil organisms, which result in too many harmful bacteria and fungi growing.
7. I urge you to support HB 53, which will restore many of the public protections that were removed by the 2013 regulatory changes. HB 53 will enable the ADOT/PF the opportunity to present to the public in an open forum, its proposed chemical application—the wheres, whys, and hows of the need for the Alaska Department of Transportation to introduce toxins into our lives and property on Mitkof Island.

Suzanne Wood
P.O. Box 383;
Petersburg, AK 99833-0383
907-772-3480 Scritz383@gmail.com


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Suzanne" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and the last name "Wood" is written below it, also in cursive. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name and contact information.

– House Bill 53 –

Submitted Testimony to House Transportation Committee
10 March 2015

by
Charles E. "Ed" Wood
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

1. My name is Charles Wood and I'm representing myself through these comments. I have been a resident of Alaska since before statehood beginning in December 1954, and Petersburg since 1961. I have been a self-employed commercial fisherman in Alaska for over 35 years.
2. I am writing in support of House Bill 53 (HB 53) in order to restore many of the public protections that were removed by the 2013 regulatory changes.
3. HB 53's intended purpose is to return to the public, an opportunity to comment on their concerns to the potential impacts of roadside spraying of pesticides/herbicides in areas of importance to them, such as the stream which my family has held State of Alaska water rights on since 9 July 1970 while our beneficial usage began in 1961, and which will be impacted by any roadside spraying.
4. The primary issue of concern over our permitted water supply is that it flows through a culvert beneath Mitkof Highway (State Highway #7) and will be contaminated beyond any doubt by roadside chemical applications on both sides of the highway, and by the ditches that drain into our stream.
5. HB 53 also provides the opportunity for ADOT&PF to provide information to the public concerning the application of chemical agents, or alternatives, to controlling plant growth along State owned roadways in a public forum.
6. It is in the public's interest to be fully informed, and included in any decision by State agencies that could have potential long-term and accumulative ramifications on public health and public safety, two areas of which the Alaska Legislature is constitutionally (Article VII, Sections 4 and 5) bound to safeguard..
7. I urge you to support HB 53.


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