

~ HOUSE BILL 53 ~

Submitted Testimony to House Transportation Committee
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By
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1. My name is Anna Holmes and I am representing myself through the following comments.

I was born in Petersburg, Alaska in 1950. My father was born here in 1917. My parents and grandparents spent the majority of their life in Southeast Alaska and lived subsistence lifestyles. My entire family relies on subsistence food sources for survival and for health purposes.

2. I am writing in support of House Bill 53 (HB 53) because I want to know when, where and what DOT/PF has plans for spraying toxic pesticides/herbicides on State owned right-of-ways. The general public need to be informed as well. 2013 regulatory changes removed the public process leaving many residents unaware of DOT/PF's plans for spraying.

3. Food sources such as grazing wild life, berries, herbs, mushrooms, fish and shellfish would be contaminated by right-of way spraying. Southeast's Alaska's heavy rainfall could potentially carry toxic runoff into the streams and oceans, thereby polluting the commercial fishing products that so many Alaskans rely on for income and subsistence.

4. HB 53 gives DOT/PF the opportunity to inform the public concerning plans for application of chemicals along State owned right-of-ways in a public forum.

5. Alaskans deserve to be fully informed and included in any decision by State agencies that could have potential toxic long-term and accumulative effects on our health, public safety and economy.

6. Please support HB 53 for the health and safety of all Alaskans.



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