

April 9, 2015

40899 Waterman Rd.

Homer, Alaska 99603

**Representative Seaton:**

I tried to be at the office here for the start of the public comments but boat work kept me from it. Therefore I'll write out my objection to HB 99.

Have you ever read the 1993 novel by Velma Wallis entitled, "Two Old Women?" It's a story about two elderly Gwich'in women who were abandoned by their tribe because they were considered to be a burden to them. The two not only survived a harsh arctic winter alone but did so in better health than their younger tribesman. When it was discovered that the two were still alive, the tribe began the policy of never abandoning their old again.

The story sends a positive message about the need for society to value the elderly or those who are less capable. It's a story about the need to value life.

Bills like HB 99 do the opposite.

I know that this isn't an easy issue. My father died only last July and I understand the emotional pain of watching him slowly pass away. I'm blessed that he was the kind of person who allowed the process of death to take its own route though it was hard to watch.

I'd be honored if you thoughtfully considered my objection as you work through this issue.

Thank-you

Leonard Miller [llmiller@ptialaska.net](mailto:llmiller@ptialaska.net)

