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## **Sponsor Statement**

### *House Bill 6 – An Act Establishing the Jonesville Public Use Area*

Alaskans of all ages enjoy getting out and experiencing the vast recreational opportunities of Alaska's great outdoors. Various modes of recreation are popular activities for families, individuals and groups. The Jonesville Public Use Area will create opportunities for enjoyment for all Alaskans.

House Bill 6 seeks to dedicate land in the Sutton/Jonesville area for public use.

The establishment of the Jonesville Public Use Area will protect, maintain, enhance, and perpetuate the present use of the area for:

- enhanced year-round general public recreation
- protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and habitats for fish and wildlife
- provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a full spectrum of uses, including off-road vehicles and non-motorized recreational opportunities
- continued access for miners and owners of private property

Adoption of the Jonesville Public Use Area will improve public safety at the recreational site in Sutton, where there was fatal shooting earlier this summer and stray bullets have struck nearby homes. Establishing defined areas for activities where a variety of recreation opportunities can be enjoyed by all.

Support for House Bill 6 will preserve a portion of the Jonesville area for future generations of Alaskans.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation to preserve this portion of Alaska for public use.

If you have additional questions please contact Darrell Breese in my office at 465-4859.