

April 12, 2017

Good afternoon Chairman Coghill and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name , Rod Arno – I'm the Executive Director of the Alaska Outdoor Council.

I'm here today to oppose the confirmation of Jahna Lindemuth... but I wish I wasn't.

Mr. Chairman, we recognize Ms. Lindemuth as a highly intelligent and accomplished attorney, who has been cordial when we have met.

Our hope would be that in 20 years time Alaskans would still be talking about what a pit bull she was in defending our state's sovereignty and the Common Use Clause of our Constitution, but that hope has been dashed by events since she has taken office.

AOC supports the sovereign right of the state of Alaska to manage and allocate our public resources. Our members are frustrated because they don't see anyone else as excited about it as they are. They see this administration giving us death by a thousand cuts. We keep hearing that we're not losing much here, or it won't be that bad there, but the cumulative effect is that our state sovereignty is being eroded. On your watch.

At some point we had to say "enough" ...and that's why I'm here today.

Mr. Chairman, the legislature passes laws that serve as state policy. But who defends those laws, those policies? It's supposed to be the Department of Law. But what happens when the 3rd floor has a different agenda? The last AG, faced with following the law or following the 3rd floor, quit. We'd like to be able to say that Ms. Lindemuth would follow the same path. But we can't.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, if you think everything is okay...if you think the state is maintaining it's sovereign rights, if you think the common use clause of Art. 8 is being adhered to, if you don't see the death by 1,000 cuts, by all means, vote to confirm Jahna Lindemuth.

But if you see what's going on in front of your face, if you see the erosion of state sovereignty, if you see the situation with Klutina Lake Road not as an isolated case, but as part of a pattern, if you, like AOC, is looking for an AG who will go down in history as a staunch defender of state's rights, we urge you to vote "no" and NOT confirm Jahna Lindemuth as Alaska's attorney general.