

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson)  
**To:** [Thomas Atkinson](mailto:Thomas.Atkinson)  
**Subject:** FW: Support HB93  
**Date:** Friday, August 11, 2017 10:11:24 AM

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**From:** Bob Gastrock [mailto:farnorthflyer@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:55 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support HB93

Dear Rep. Josephson,

We urge you to support House Bill 93, which was introduced by Rep. Chuck Kopp.

We have owned our home in South Anchorage since 1976. Our property is in the Flying Crown subdivision, part of the original Tom Sperstad homestead, which was patented by the federal government in 1950. That patent reserved a right-of-way for “railroads, telegraph, and telephones in accordance with the Act of March 12, 1914 38 Stat. 305.” When ownership of the Alaska Railroad was transferred from the federal government to the State of Alaska in 1982, the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) was formed to operate the railroad. In the years since, ARRC has sought, often through surreptitious and deceptive means, to gain complete control of the ROW, and strip adjacent landowners of their property rights. Misapplying language in the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act (ARTA), the BLM has issued subsequent patents (often over the same land previously patented), granting ARRC “exclusive use” of the ROW. This action stripped us of our property rights without notice or compensation. It has devalued our property and placed a cloud on title which we have no way to clear.

Claiming that they “own” the ROW, ARRC has extorted our homeowners’ association for many years. With the threat of being blocked off by fences or barricades, they have required us to obtain permits and pay annual fees to enable our property owners to access the common area of our subdivision, regularly increasing the fees to the current amount of \$4500 per year. In effect, they have been treating our association as a group of residential property owners, like those now individually subject to ARRC’s RRUP program.

ARRC’s repeated inappropriate and strong-handed methods demonstrate their commitment to subjugate all property owners along the rail line. HB93 effectively blocks this action, restoring the right of adjacent landowners to use portions of the ROW in a manner that does not adversely affect safe railroad operations or put employees or passengers at risk. And it serves to prevent ARRC from demanding permits or fees for this compatible use.

Please support HB93, which protects Alaskans’ property rights and prevents abuse by ARRC.

Thank you,

Judy & Bob Gastrock  
13151 Nora Drive, Anchorage

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