

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Thomas Atkinson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support House Bill 93  
**Date:** Friday, August 11, 2017 10:22:45 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Patrick SW [<mailto:patricksw@ak.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 9:25 AM  
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Support House Bill 93

Representative Josephson,  
Please support House Bill 93.

Since the State acquired the railroad from the federal government in 1983, The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) has consistently implemented measures which restrict compatible uses of the right-of-way (ROW) by adjacent property owners. Advancing its agenda under the guise of safety, ARRC policies include the Residential ROW Use Policy (RRUP), which extorts adjacent landowners who, contrary to ARRC's claims, hold an ownership interest in the land beneath the tracks. ARRC is demanding payment of annual fees and filing liens against those who do not comply. Rep. Chuck Kopp has introduced House Bill 93 to protect private property rights. This legislation will guarantee that adjacent property owners have reasonable ROW access and compatible use that does not impede safe railroad operations.

One of the compatible uses I am most concerned about is the Fish Creek Estuary connector trail to the Coastal Trail. Historically, one could walk along the ROW at a safe distance from the tracks from Northern Lights Blvd. into the Fish Creek Estuary which is now protected by a land trust. There is potential to greatly improve our trail system by connecting to existing trails through the ROW. Unfortunately, the Railroad has recently fenced off access with little notice and disrupted this possibility.

Please support this important legislation for the benefit of all Alaskans. Thank you.

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