

Juneau Testimony: House Fisheries at 10AM there will be a [hearing on HB14 – An Act relating to the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve by Rep. Josephson.](#)

[This bill would amend the 2014 Bristol Bay Forever Initiative and make a bad bill much worse. Our top line view is this entire issue is unconstitutional under the separation of powers clause.](#)

Key Topics to Cover:

Yes, Good Morning Representative Josephson and esteemed members of the House Special Committee on Fisheries and Resources

My name is Mary Ann Pease and I have my own consulting Business, MAP Consulting and I am an active member of the State Chamber, CommonweathNorth and several other pro-business and resource development organizations here in Alaska. I have been a resident for over 30 years and my Alaskan born husband and I reside here with our 2 sons also born here in Alaska.

I am quite disappointed in introduction of HB14, which clearly politicizes Alaska's resource permitting process by having our state agency decisions subject to review and approval by politicians/Legislators rather than professional technical agency staff. Best practices of review should reside with technical experts NOT Legislators!

- I also question how HB14 comports with our Constitution. The legislature is supposed to enact laws and the executive branch is supposed to implement and execute laws. **This places the legislature in a position of reviewing permits after they are issued by the executive branch.**

This process is called a “legislative veto” and the Alaska Supreme Court has repeatedly said that a legislative veto is unconstitutional.

I want my Legislators focusing on ways to keep Alaska and our Economy OPEN FOR BUSINESS and not shutting it down.

Mines and resource development clearly help in solving rural energy issues that have plagued our state over the decades. Resources Development supports jobs, our economy, diversified opportunities for our children, and a SUSTAINABLE future for our state!

- I would also like to draw your attention to - One amendment proposed in HB14 that would make it mandatory for the commissioner of DNR to enact regulations to implement the law. But the purpose of the statute is to require a **legislative approval of a permitted mine. Is DNR supposed to regulate the legislature?** This appears to be merely an exercise in producing more red tape.
- The additional language to the bill adds additional levels of bureaucracy to any decision making. This type of uncertainty will add cost to investment decisions in Alaska.

- Regardless of what has been stated previously....Clearly we are looking at Targeted Legislation.

This type of legislations Balkanizes permitting decisions in Alaska by making one set of rules for decisions in the Bristol Bay region while we have a different set of rules governing permitting requirements in the rest of the state. Alaska and the Federal Government have a stringent, comprehensive permitting process.

Alaska is in a substantial economic downturn.

This type of legislation sends a message to the investment community that Alaska is unstable when it comes to permitting. It will jeopardize and impact future investment and job opportunities for all Alaskans.