

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Elisabeth Genaux <e.genaux@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:32 AM
To: Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: SB 51: Citizen comment

Dear Senator Birch,

The recently introduced Senate Bill 51 (SB 51), sponsored by the Senate Resources Committee, is an act that would gut the rights of Alaskans to protect critical waters while making it easier for corporations to pollute them.

The Clean Water Act allows residents of Alaska to protect waters critical to their communities or culture from pollution under a **Tier 3 Designation**. SB 51 would require a Tier 3 nomination get approval **from three different agencies** and require a law passed through the legislature to exercise this right. The decision would be political rather than science-based and would make the approval process nearly impossible. Meanwhile, corporations only have to fill out a 6-page online form to get permission to degrade our waters.

Corporations should not be granted rights denied to residents. **A Tier 3 designation process to protect waters should be no more onerous than the process to degrade our waters.**

The Clean Water Act and Outstanding Natural Resource Water (Tier 3) designations are tools for **collective action**. They require the opportunity for public participation in the process of determining a course forward. Without these mechanisms, water management decisions would likely be limited to individuals with the most access to decision-making and funding – those industries already causing the most damage. It is critical that you work to preserve the processes that allow communities most impacted by water management decisions to participate in decision-making.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comment.

Regards,

Elisabeth Genaux

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