

P. O. Box 957
Homer, Alaska 99603
March 17, 2022

Senate Finance
RE: SB62 Directional Drilling in Kachemak Bay

Dear Senators,

We are most strongly opposed to SB62. It is presented in a seemingly non-destructive manner as a funding bill, "Relating to the renewable energy grant fund." Since when have oil and gas been considered renewable? This is 1984 Newspeak!

Kachemak Bay is a World Heritage Site because of its unique natural beauty, certainly one of the most beautiful unspoiled places on earth. Kachemak Bay should be protected and not subjected to industrial Rape!

We have lived alongside Kachemak Bay since 1997. I am a retired geologist who has practiced in Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Oregon. I have travelled to Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado, and British Columbia and seen the impact of gas fracking on communities. The social and economic aspects are not pretty!

The first concern is the volume of water used in fracking including wastewater disposal. The EPA found That the median volume of water consumed by one fracking well is 1.5 million gallons. Where is such a quantity of water going to come from? Certainly not the Anchor River. Hydraulic fracking fluids are known to contain toxic carcinogenic proprietary chemicals that are injected at pressures up to 9,000 pounds per square inch into subsurface formations. The glacial history of Kachemak Bay region and the fact that the Border Range Fault is traceable from Kodiak Island into Kachemak Bay presents a potential risk for earthquakes. What is unknown is whether or not earthquakes are directly caused by fracking or by the disposal of wastewater generated by the fracking process.

Another serious concern is the wastewater generated from the fracking process can leak into surrounding water sources and contaminate drinking water and destroy the life supporting qualities of streams like the Anchor River and its tributaries, and even Kachemak Bay. In 2015 the EPA documented 151 spills of hydraulic fracking fluids.

The environmental risk of opening Kachemak Bay to fracking is incomprehensible! It is a desecration of nature and no less a crime than the desecration of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor.

Please vote NO on this poorly vetted proposal called SB62. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael McCarthy
Catherine McCarthy

