

Hi Members of Senate Resources,

I am writing in opposition to SB 228, which you are taking testimony on this week.

ONRW designations should be science-based, and requiring that such designations are in statute will make it a politicized legislative decision. DEC has the authority and ability to handle such designations, and a process is needed to provide certainty to all those who have already requested ONRW designations and spent many years waiting with those in limbo.

Instead, an ONRW designation process should establish reasonable nomination requirements that Alaskans can work with, provide a transparent public review process, and enable Alaskans to hold DEC accountable for addressing nominations. This process should be science-based, and not subject to political whims.

Additionally, there has been very little public discourse over this version of the bill. I hope you will provide additional opportunities for testimony and people to learn more, and not just pass this through.

Thank you for your time,  
Molly Dischner