

HB 120

Testimony Packet

House Resources Committee

House Resource Committee members,

As the session winds to a close and you consider final bills to push forward this year, please put the breaks on HB 120 which would allow DNR to liquidate state lands by selling them off to outside interests and pushing Alaskan's who fish, hunt and recreate out while stripping salmon habitat protections like mineral closing orders when lands leave state ownership.

This bill does not resolve any existing problems and will favor outside corporate interests over Alaskans. Specifically HB 120 does the following:

- allows DNR to sell Alaska's state public lands for 70% of assessed value- ie. not much of a revenue generator for the state.
- State public lands offer hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities and provide habitat for our fish and wildlife resources. Fragmenting state public lands by selling them off in a piecemeal fashion threatens our use and enjoyment of those lands.
- Allows DNR to sell public lands for speculative industrial/ commercial development with no perceived return on investment
- Allows DNR to sell land closed to mineral development by reclassifying that land for other uses. Most mineral closing orders are in areas with highly productive fish habitat. This provision threatens our fisheries.
- While the agricultural provisions are good, they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the bill.

Sincerely,

Mr Ryan Astalos

1552 Primrose St Anchorage, AK 99508-3062 ryanasto1@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

Mr. Brian Kraft

5870 Alpine Woods Dr Anchorage, AK 99516-2465 brian@fishasl.com

Dear Representative Patkotak,

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB 120. I believe these changes in the disposal of state lands and the repeal of the establishment of recreation rivers and corridors are a violation of Public Trust – putting the rights of businesses and corporations above the rights of the people of Alaska. In addition, these changes will certainly result in negative affects on wild salmon production in Alaska.

Thank you,

Catherine Cassidy

Kasilof

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Sincerely,
Ms Terry Cummings
6740 E 10th Ave Anchorage, AK 99504-1814 cummingst44@yahoo.com

To the House Resources Committee Regarding Section 13 of HB120.

Please take section 13 out. It is too broad and circumvents any chance of a robust and transparent public process. This will create future land use conflicts, and state constitutionality legal problems.

A responsible and transparent public process would require legal notification of adjacent landowners, with public comment and the ability to request a public hearing with comments on the record.

The Division of Oil and Gas Leasing Best Interest process does not incorporate that in their public process. Yet ADNRL is comparing this new statutory commercial disposals will be similar to the Oil and Gas Licensing best interest process.

Current protected and designated land classification state acreage from the borough and state management plan process could be overridden through section 13. We will have significant concerns about negative impacts o

Comments on HB 120 - STATE LAND SALES AND LEASES; RIVERS

Jan Conitz
619 W. 11th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

House Resource Committee Members:

Please accept the following comments on HB 120 for the record.

I am extremely concerned about the provisions for public land disposal contained in this bill, which has had little or no public vetting. The bill will certainly result in the loss of significant amounts of public land. It contains irresponsibly broad language which allows the state to reclassify "...any ... state land the department deems appropriate for commercial development". This gives sweeping authority to the commissioner to reclassify state public lands, without public process. There is no requirement that the commissioner honor existing land use plans that were developed through various public processes at significant time, effort, and cost. The only justified provision that I can see is for Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans to receive the allotments they have unfairly been denied.

The bill contains no requirement to respect existing local and state management plans, to uphold existing riparian area protections, to notify adjacent landowners, or to generate any profit or other public benefit. It simply allows the removal of valuable land and habitat protections from the Alaskan public at the discretion of a single, politically appointed official, and this is simply wrong.

Alaska is unique among all 50 states in having vast tracts of land and shorelines in a relatively natural condition that can be accessed by the public for all kinds of non-destructive uses. The effect of HB120 would be to fragment our public lands and access points to waterways, drainages, ridgelines, and historic trails, and put up NO TRESPASSING signs where people have been free to roam for countless generations.

Another serious consequence of HB120 would be to accelerate and exacerbate salmon and other fish habitat loss in our rivers and other fresh waters. Likewise, wildlife habitat will be fragmented, cutting off species such as caribou from their migratory routes and destroying breeding areas.

In my own experience as a fisheries biologist, I have seen firsthand the effects of privatization of riparian habitat. For example, private landowners along banks of the Salcha river, who insist on attempting to harden their riverfront property to prevent natural river changes, have damaged habitat in one of the most productive Chinook salmon spawning and rearing areas in the entire Yukon River drainage. At this time, Yukon River drainage Chinook populations are in serious decline. Similarly, a poorly planned subdivision near Klawock has diminished the main productive spawning area for the Klawock River sockeye run, which is also experiencing severe declines.

In summary, wild resources like our Chinook salmon, and public land access and enjoyment across generations into the future, are vastly more valuable in the long term than the gravel pit, vacation home, or box store that would permanently replace them if HB120 were to pass.

Respectfully,

Jan Conitz

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- While the agricultural provisions are good, they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the bill.

Sincerely,

Miss Brenda Johnson

5875 Glacier Hwy Spc 26 Juneau, AK 99801-7219 bljinalaska@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Hilcoske

1327 G St Anchorage, AK 99501-4354

frieds4@gci.net

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Sincerely,

Mr John Jensen

312 Thomas Cir Anchorage, AK 99508-2262 norwejohn@gci.net

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Sincerely,

Ms. Karen Walker

6750 Marguerite St Juneau, AK 99801-9430 karenWalkeryoga@gmail.com

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Dr Rick Luttmann

PO Box 144 Eek, AK 99578-0144

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Sincerely,
ms Lynn Wilbur
8515 Jennifer Dr Juneau, AK 99801-9092
kalei.lw@gmail.com

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13231 Mountain Pl Anchorage, AK 99516-3150 dkvoves@gci.net

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Sincerely,
Mr. Russell Miller
530 Grubstake Ave Homer, AK 99603-7639
rustical3@gmail.com

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Ms. Judith Stoll
842 W 75th Ave Anchorage, AK 99518-2539 judithinalaska@aol.com

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Ms. Kristine Hutchin

10335 Stewart Dr Eagle River, AK 99577-9559 khutchin@mtaonline.net

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3007 W 30th Ave Anchorage, AK 99517-1761 varrati@gmail.com
