



February 13, 2024

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Senator Gary Stevens
Senate President
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau AK, 99801
Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

Representative Cathy Tilton
Speaker
State Capitol Room 208
Juneau AK, 99801
Representative.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov

Re: Concerns regarding Executive Orders 126, 132, and 134

Dear Senate President Stevens and Speaker Tilton,

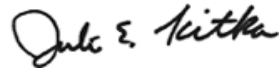
On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I write to you with concerns regarding the implications of Executive Orders (EO) 126, 132, and 134, particularly regarding the potential reduction in opportunities for public engagement, oversight, and the impacts these changes may have on the management of our wildlife and fisheries resources. These EOs could significantly alter the mechanisms through which communities engage with management practices and policies affecting our natural resources and subsistence ways of life.

EO 126, 132, and 134 restructure the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council, Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council, and the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board within the Department of Natural Resources. This restructuring and elimination of advisory roles and councils, as indicated in these orders, threaten to centralize decision-making processes, potentially sidelining community input and oversight in matters directly impacting their livelihoods and cultural practices. Specifically, the changes proposed in the EOs could undermine the nuanced understanding and management of local ecosystems upon which subsistence practices heavily rely. It is essential that any restructuring or policy changes ensure the continued involvement of local and Indigenous communities in the stewardship and management of their resources.

As such, AFN urges the Alaska State Legislature to hold a joint session to consider the impacts of these Executive Orders. More specifically, to reject the EOs to ensure that the roles of these advisory committees continue to foster transparency and accountability in decision-making processes to maintain public trust and ensure policies reflect the diverse needs of all stakeholders.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me at (907) 274-3611.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie E. Kitka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Kitka
President

CC: Alaska Bush Caucus
Senate Resources Committee
House Resources Committee

From: [Connie Markis](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Executive Orders
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 9:57:50 AM

Dear Legislators,

I have reviewed the executive orders that Governor Dunlevy has submitted and am sending you my opinions and concerns about them. The reasons for my concerns are several.

First, the results of many of the EO's end up costing the state, small businesses and individual Alaskans money in the form of hiring state employees to do the job of volunteer board or advisory councils and of raising license or other fees to Alaskans.

Second, by eliminating expertise of the areas affected by the EO's, once again we are dumbing down efficient, effective and legal ways to grow Alaska and stifling the voices of Alaskans who have every right to add their knowledge and know-how to the mix.

Third, it seems the real intent behind this move is to give the executive branch more power to make independent decisions without the bothersome input of other Alaskans who may not agree or want to offer information that may shift the final decision or outcome.

EO 131 Elimination of the Alaska Marine Highway Operations Board. I am AGAINST this EO because the executive branch needs the experienced voices of coastal communities to strategically guide the needs and economic development of these communities, local governments and the tourism industry which make all of Alaska stronger.

EO 127 Elimination of the Massage Therapy Board. I am AGAINST this because part of the intent of this board is to identify and stop human trafficking which I think we should all be in favor of.

EO 129 Elimination of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. I am AGAINST this EO. This board helps maintain healthy oversight to keep a check on disease transmission and injuries. Its elimination would raise costs for small businesses to replace workers with state employees.

EO 130 Elimination of Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. I am AGAINST this EO because it would reduce midwife support and would increase costs for midwives and families.

EO 126 Elimination of Wood-Tikchik Park Management Council. I am AGAINST this EO. This is a large state park in Western Alaska with a management council of regional volunteers. By eliminating this council, it would reduce indigenous input and diminish experienced voices that maintain a positive influence on the recreation, subsistence and economy of the area.

EO 134 The Recreation Rivers Advisory Board. I am AGAINST this EO. Rivers throughout Alaska are the lifeblood of ALL Alaskans and thus need a wide representation for outdoors enjoyment, tourism and economic development.

EO 132 Chilkat Bald Eagle Reserve Advisory Council. I am AGAINST this EO. Eliminating this council will not advance any of the economic interests of the area and seem more likely to create gridlock rather than support local residents who are working to guide their region's economic development.

EO 133 Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board to Department of Public Safety. I am AGAINST this EO. By shifting this Independent Board, it would lessen detailed and

experienced information about public safety effects of the justice system's policy and programs.

EO 135 Alaska Safety Advisory Council. I am AGAINST this EO. This is an all volunteer council. Over the last decade, the state has a record of reducing workers injuries and improving Worker's Compensation rates. It will cost the state money to replace what these volunteers do as state employees. Doesn't make sense.

Thank you for your consideration,
Constance (Connie) Markis
Anchorage, Alaska

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: Fwd: Alaskans deserve to be heard — reject the Executive Orders
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 10:24:53 AM

Best regards,
Cathy

Senator Cathy Giessel, MS, APRN, Fellow AANP
sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov
907.242.5450 cell

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nicholas Dalessio [REDACTED]
Date: February 14, 2024 at 9:52:16 AM AKST
To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaskans deserve to be heard — reject the Executive Orders
Reply-To: nick.dalessio@gmail.com

Dear Cathy Giessel,

It is important that the Legislature work together to reject Executive Orders 132, 134 and 126, which dissolve much needed boards representing local expertise and cultural and community use of very special places across the state.

The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council was created because it was necessary and it remains necessary to this day. This council knows the needs of the preserve best because it's made up of people with deep knowledge and deep ties.

I'm worried about the dissolution of the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board and the Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Council for the same reasons.

All together, these executive orders eliminate Alaskan input in an important part of the public process.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Dalessio

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Girdwood, AK 99587
United States