

Sarah Snowberger

From: Susan A [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 1:40 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Public Testimony Opposing HJR 18

Public Testimony Opposing HJR 18 Presented to the Alaska State Legislature

My name is Susan Allmeroth. I am here to deliver a public testimony in absolute opposition to House Joint Resolution 18. Let me be clear: this resolution is not a symbol of progress—it is a death warrant for our people, our environment, our democracy, and our future.

I. We Are Living in a Collapsing System

We are not operating in a normal democracy anymore. The federal government is currently under deconstruction. Regulatory agencies are being gutted, science is being silenced, Indigenous treaties are being ignored, and executive power is being used to fast-track dangerous fossil fuel projects with no checks or balances.

In that context, HJR 18 is not just misguided—it is catastrophic.

II. What's Wrong with HJR 18?

This resolution:

1. Violates the Alaska Constitution

Article VIII says resources must be used “for the maximum benefit of the people.” HJR 18 prioritizes foreign buyers, billion-dollar corporations, and fossil fuel executives—not the public.

It sacrifices subsistence rights, sustainability, and long-term revenue for short-term industry profits.

2. Ignores Tribal Sovereignty and Treaties

No consultation with tribes. No FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent). No recognition of land claims, ANCSA, or the real human beings who live along this pipeline's path.

It desecrates traditional lands, threatens food sources, and erodes generations of Indigenous stewardship.

3. Greenlights Environmental Destruction

No mention of permafrost melting, earthquake risk, carbon emissions, water contamination, or marine damage from LNG tankers.

Climate collapse is already here. This resolution says: “Let’s pour more fuel on the fire.”

4. Endangers Public Health

Natural gas leaks methane—a supercharged greenhouse gas. Liquefaction facilities release cancer-causing compounds. The communities near the infrastructure? Mostly poor, mostly Native, mostly voiceless. This is environmental racism.

5. Has No Worker Protections

No guarantees for union jobs, local hiring, or jobsite safety.

No protections for whistleblowers. No plan for what happens to workers if the project fails.

6. Has No Corporate Accountability

No ownership transparency. No liability if the pipeline leaks or gets abandoned. No requirement to clean up. No financial disclosures.

If it goes wrong, the public pays. The billionaires walk away richer.

7. Violates Democratic Process

No public hearings. No public comment. Just top-down cheerleading for a fossil fuel empire already collapsing under its own weight.

It’s propaganda—drafted to glorify one man and one industry, not to protect Alaska.

8. Undermines Alaska’s Sovereignty

The resolution tells federal agencies to ignore their own laws and rubber-stamp this project.

That’s not sovereignty. That’s surrender.

9. Pushes Alaska Into Bankruptcy

No windfall tax. No permanent fund replenishment. No renewable reinvestment. We are subsidizing a dying industry that will leave us with ghost towns, toxic waste, and no Plan B.

10. Aligns with Project 2025

HJR 18 quotes Donald Trump’s executive orders and speeches as if they are gospel.

This isn’t about energy. This is about ideological control—turning Alaska into a resource colony for an authoritarian petrostate.

III. Can This Be Fixed?

Maybe—but not like this.

In our current chaos, Alaska must look inward, not upward. The federal government is unraveling. We need legally enforceable protections, not political performance art. To fix HJR 18, it would require:

Rewriting it entirely to prioritize:

Indigenous leadership

Climate science

Labor and environmental protections

Real public revenue sharing

A sovereign energy plan that includes renewables

Binding amendments that:

Require tribal consent

Establish a permanent Environmental and Community Justice Fund

Cap corporate profits and mandate reinvestment in Alaskan communities

Ban offshore tax avoidance

Mandate local labor, equity sharing, and long-term economic transition planning

Immediate pause on all project advancement until:

Full environmental and health reviews are completed

Tribal impact assessments are conducted

Public forums are held in every affected region

But let's be honest. The system we're in right now doesn't want to fix things. It wants to extract, abandon, and repeat. So if you pass HJR 18 as written, you are signing away Alaska's future to the same forces that have already failed us.

IV. Final Words

If this pipeline leaks, if it accelerates climate collapse, if it poisons a community—we can't undo it.

But we can choose a different path. We can build a diversified economy rooted in clean energy, Indigenous stewardship, and community-led innovation. We can protect the land and people of Alaska, not just the corporations exploiting them.

Kill this resolution.
Protect our sovereignty.
Save our future.

Thank you.
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers
Myself
References

Alaska Constitution. (1959). Article VIII: Natural Resources.
<https://law.alaska.gov/doclibrary/conconv/63.html>

Andrews, R. N. L. (2020). *Managing the environment, managing ourselves: A history of American environmental policy* (3rd ed.). Yale University Press.

Cole, D. (2024). *The LNG Pipeline Mirage: Corporate Greed and Alaska's Dead End*. The Alaska Memo.
<https://thealaskamemo.com/>

Environmental Protection Agency. (2023). *Health and environmental effects of hazardous air pollutants*.
<https://www.epa.gov/haps/health-effects-notebook-hazardous-air-pollutants>

Food & Water Watch. (2023). *Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Exports: Environmental and Public Health Risks*. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org>

Gilio-Whitaker, D. (2019). *As long as grass grows: The Indigenous fight for environmental justice, from colonization to Standing Rock*. Beacon Press.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). *AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023*.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

Project 2025. (2023). *Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise*. The Heritage Foundation.
<https://www.project2025.org/>

United Nations. (2007). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2023). *Oil and Gas: Federal Efforts Should Address Impacts of Climate Change on Infrastructure*. <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-23-105590>

U.S. Department of Energy. (2022). *Methane Emissions and Natural Gas Infrastructure*.
<https://www.energy.gov>