

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Bernadette Martel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 2, 2025 6:18 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose

Please allow for the trails to proceed. Please DO NOT allow 2 individuals to restrict 100s of thousands of travelers and locals over to E to NOT benefit from these trail expansions. That is just DUMB for Alaska. It has to end. Just like those individuals blocking the Ram Valley in Eagle River. The very few privileged blocking literally EVERYBODY ELSE!!!

Bernadette Martel  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Jenna Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:56 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB136

Hello, I am writing to submit my opposition to HB 136. If passed, this act could interfere with Anchorage's ability to construct the Fish Creek trail extension and possibly other trail projects that intersect with the railroad.

Thank you,  
Jenna Miller  
Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** dan bergstrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:53 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

My wife and I do not support this bill. The greater good is to have a trail for Anchorage residents to use along Fish Creek. It does affect a homeowner but they will get used to it. Most all of us have roads and sidewalks in front of our homes. The state railroad right of way should be for many to use rather than one household.

Thank you  
Dan Bergstrom  
Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Alexa Dobson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:26 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Bike Anchorage Comment Re: HB 136  
**Attachments:** BA Letter - HB 136 Hearing 5-6-25 (1).pdf

Hello,

Please see Bike Anchorage's comments below re: HB 136 for the hearing tomorrow. A signed copy is also attached here. Thank you!

May 5, 2025

**Written Testimony from Bike Anchorage on HB 136  
For Hearing on 5/6/25**  
Submitted to the House Transportation Committee

To the Co-Chairs and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

Bike Anchorage urges you to oppose HB 136, which poses a serious threat to the future of trail development in Alaska and, in particular, to the long-planned Fish Creek Trail Connection in Anchorage.

This bill has been presented narrowly as a property rights issue involving railroad easements, but notably omits any mention of its impact on public trails. At its first hearing on April 1, 2025, the sponsor introduced HB 136 with a rhetorical focus on protecting adjacent property owners from theoretical overreach by the Alaska Railroad. However, the bill's likely real-world consequence is to create a new legal mechanism for individuals to block publicly funded trail projects, including the Fish Creek Trail connection project in West Anchorage.

The four invited testifiers in support of the bill at the April 1 hearing—John Pletcher, Hugh Ashlock, Joe Mathis, and Ivan London—each have direct ties to the April 2024 [amicus brief in \*Flying Crown Subdivision v. Alaska Railroad\*](#). That brief makes explicit the goal of stopping trails along railroad corridors. For example, Mr. Pletcher's section of the brief describes his opposition to the proposed Alaska Long Trail, citing its planned route near his property.

Another signer on the brief is John Haxby, a well-known opponent of the Fish Creek trail connection, who [hired Rep. Chuck Kopp's consulting firm Winfluence](#) to lobby against the trail project. His section of the brief states his intention to use the precedent in *Flying Crown* to stop construction of the Fish Creek trail connection. None of these details were disclosed in the hearing, nor was the public purpose or benefit of trails ever acknowledged.

If passed, HB 136 could empower a small number of well-connected individuals to block community-supported trail projects with regional and statewide significance. It would also place federal grant funding already spent on projects like Fish Creek at risk, and chill future investment in trails that align with railroad corridors.

Projects like the Fish Creek Trail connection are the result of years of planning, public engagement, and voter-approved funding. Five municipal bonds have supported the project since 2021, and nearly 1,000 Alaskans

signed a petition in support of it last fall. If this trail connection project is terminated for non-technical reasons, the Municipality of Anchorage may have to repay over \$1 million in federal funding already used for design and planning.

We urge the committee to recognize the broader implications of HB 136 and reject this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexa Dobson  
Executive Director, Bike Anchorage

Alexa Dobson (she/her)  
Executive Director, Bike Anchorage  
[REDACTED]

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Benjamin Histan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

Hello,

I'm a resident of Anchorage and I would like to register my opposition to HB 136 and support of the Fish Creek trail project.

Thank you,  
Ben Histan

**From:** Thomas Atkinson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 3:56 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Testimony opposing HB136  
**Attachments:** Testimony for 5.6.25 HTRNS hearing.docx

## Testimony to the House Transportation Committee Regarding HB 136 in the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislature

When HB136's sponsor presented this bill to the House Transportation Committee April 1, 2025, he spoke repeatedly about its effect on a south Anchorage airstrip.

What Rep. Kopp *didn't address* was HB136's potential effect on the Fish Creek Trail Connection project.

If HB136 becomes law, it will kill the connection project, which is fully funded, fully permitted and broadly, strongly supported by many citizens.

Its principal opponents, J.L. McCarrey III and John E. Haxby have hired Rep. Kopp's company, Winfluence Strategies, to oppose the connection project. Rep. Kopp's Winfluence partner is Cherie Curry.

On December 10, 2024, the Anchorage Daily News reported <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2024/12/10/state-puts-anchorage-fish-creek-trail-extension-on-hold-after-marathon-petroleum-objects-to-route/> that Winfluence represented McCarrey and Haxby.

In the ADN article, "Curry said Winfluence had worked with clients opposing the project to get staff members from the governor's office and DOT Commissioner Ryan Anderson out for a tour of the properties to see what would happen to backyards such as Haxby's. Winfluence has represented McCarrey in correspondence with the municipal attorney over the land rights dispute."

Also on December 10, 2024, the Alaska Landmine reported <https://alaskalandmine.com/landmines/unexplained-halt-of-fish-creek-trail-connection-project-prompts-confusion-outrage/> that "...Haxby engaged Winfluence Strategies and Consulting, whose two-person team includes Representative-elect Chuck Kopp. Haxby and Kopp separately told the Landmine that they had contacted and engaged with members of Governor Mike Dunleavy's (R – Alaska) Office regarding the trail.

The Landmine article continued: "Political donation records show that Haxby has also made a number of large donations to government officials in recent years. These include \$500 donations to both Senator Matt Claman (D – Anchorage) and Chuck Kopp in 2024..." The photograph in this article of Mr. Haxby at the 12/5/24 AMATS meeting shows Ms. Curry sitting behind Mr. Haxby.

On May 2, 2024, a Turnagain Community Council officer indicated <https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/24004.pdf> that

“● Cathy was contacted by Chuck Kopp who is representing neighbors [to the Fish Creek trail connection project]:...

● Another Land Use Committee meeting to hear from Chuck Kopp regarding legal issues.”

On May 10, 2024, the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council heard <https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/24097.pdf> that Mr. Kopp was representing opponents of the connection project:

“7. Old Business

a. Alaska Railroad Trail on the Easement – John Pletcher along with Chuck Kopp and Cherie Curry of WINfluence provided a DRAFT Resolution Opposing Public Recreation Trails in Alaska Railroad Right-of-Way (ROW), see the map of BLM’s Alaska Long Trail, Fish Creek Trail, Railroaded Alaska

• Cherie Curry, from WINfluence, introduced a draft Resolution Opposing Public Recreation Trails in Alaska Railroad Right-of-Way (ROW). WINfluence is working with communities from Seward to Fairbanks, Whittier and with people all along the tracks.”

After all Winfluence’s work for Haxby and McCarrey, Rep. Kopp testified to your committee April 1, 2025 (@ 56:50 into the recording), “I don’t have any clients that have, that are, that are involved with this legislation, House Bill 136. Those were all resigned before I took office.”

**Really? When, exactly, were Haxby and McCarrey “resigned” as Winfluence clients? How was such resignation documented? Are we to believe that Rep. Kopp and Ms. Curry no longer care about the connection project, no longer care about Mr. McCarrey’s and Mr. Haxby’s interests? Or does Rep. Kopp have a conflict of interest?**

Regardless of whether Haxby and McCarrey were “resigned” as Winfluence clients before Rep. Kopp was sworn in, Winfluence maintains an interest in killing the Fish Creek Trail connection project, as evidenced by Ms. Curry’s attendance at the ADOT/PF-AMATS Fish Creek Trail Connection Project Open House #2, March 19, 2025, where she and I spoke to one another.

**At the very least, Rep. Kopp has the appearance of a conflict of interest.**

The connection project’s public benefits far outweigh McCarrey’s or Haxby’s personal, private interests.

The connector will promote public safety for non-automotive users, i.e. children, cyclists, skaters, runners, walkers and handicapped citizens, whereas enactment of HB136 leaves those same users at risk of clashes with automobiles.

The trail connector, facilitating physical exercise, will also promote public health, whereas enactment of HB136 would not.

Personal, private use should not trump public use and public benefit.

Please support public use, public benefit, public safety and public health, and please do not support conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof. Please vote against passing HB136 out of the House Transportation Committee.



Thank you for considering my comments.

Tom Atkinson  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Thomas Pease [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 3:36 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136

Dear House Transportation Committee Members:

I'm writing to ask you to hold HB 136 in your committee due to the potential harm it would inflict on the public. HB 136, if passed, would deny the public access to public lands adjacent to railroad land. Worse, it would hand a few private landowners sole authority to deny public access across public easements. This runs counter to the spirit of public land use, as previously ruled on by the Alaska Supreme Court.

Public lands are public in name only if public access is impeded. HB 136 would do just that. A few wealthy homeowners should not get to treat adjacent public lands as extensions of their own back yards.

Personal interest legislation such as HB 136 would prevent current and future projects that provide valuable health, safety and recreational benefits to Alaska's communities.

Please recognize what's fair, what's right, and what's been established by legal precedent. Vote no on HB 136.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Pease  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Gail French [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 316

I strongly oppose allowing people who own private property along railroad lines to be able to Annex public lands for their own use.

Especially when it allows the public to enjoy what should be rightfully prioritized for the public

Thank you Gail French Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Frances Jacobson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 3:19 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB136

Dear Committee Members,

I am contacting you to express my opposition to HB136. The proposed Fish Creek Connector Trail reflects a land usage plan that will benefit hundreds if not thousands of active Alaskans. Anchorage's walking and biking trails are one of our most valued assets serving residents and visitors alike. Making this connection possible will create greater community connections, access to nature and elevate our current trail system nationally. Please do not vote to support the interests of a small number of residents when you have the opportunity to support thousands.

Sincerely,

Frances Jacobson

Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Benjamin Crawford OD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136

Dear committee members,

I am asking for your opposition to HB 136. The potential for a trail expansion on Fish Creek would be a tremendous asset to the community. The additional network it would connect would add to our already excellent trail system. On a personal note, my son attends Aquarian Charter School as a kindergartener. This Wednesday is Bike to School Day and we will be biking together. Right now, we will have to cut through the neighborhood streets from the Coastal trail to get to his school. If the Fish Creek Trail existed, we would be able to take the directly and more safely navigate to his school via bike.

Benjamin Crawford, O.D.

Accurate Vision Clinic  
*#yourvisionourfocus*



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Mitch Laird [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:45 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposing HB 136

This bill would prioritize the desires of private landowners to use Alaska Railroad right-of-way as an extension of their own property over trails and other community projects, effectively shutting down trail connections that have been in the works for decades.

Mitch Laird  
[REDACTED]

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Ann Marie Larquier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:33 PM  
**To:** House Transportation; Sen. Matt Claman; Rep. Carolyn Hall  
**Subject:** Comments of opposition to HB 136 & HB 142- Fish Creek Trail Anchorage

Hello,

As a West Anchorage resident, voter, and trail user I oppose HB 136 & HB 142 for the following reasons:

- Prioritizes and illegal desires of one (or two) wealthy private residents over the benefit of many. John Haxby has no legal ownership to the Alaska Railroad right-of-way and no claim to the land in trying to block this community trail.
- Approval of HB 136 could set a precedent allowing private landowners across Anchorage and the State to block trails and other public infrastructure in railroad ROWs.
- HB 142 would give a small number of wealthy individuals adjacent to proposed trails veto power over major public infrastructure projects.
- This is a much needed trail. At one point, I lived right on the railroad tracks at the deadend of W. 27th Ave south of the tracks, exactly where the proposed trail would lie. This was a regular and well used cut through to the Coastal Trail in winter months when the Fish Creek Estuary was frozen over.
- The Fish Creek Trail has broad public support and funding is already in place (along with all the \$ already invested to pay for design and public process aspects).

Please stop HB 136 and HB 142 and put them to bed for good.

Thank you,  
Ann Marie Larquier

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Ronda Aspengren <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:15 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I oppose HB 136 if for no other reason than you should never prioritize the desires of private landowners over trails and other community projects. This never has a good outcome. Keep the right of ways open to all.

Ronda Aspengren  
Sent from my iPhone



**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Diana Rhoades [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Cc:** Meredith Trainor; Rep. Ted Eischeid  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 136  
**Attachments:** ANC Park Foundation opposes HB 136 - May 5.pdf

Please see an updated letter of opposition to HB 136.

Thank you,  
Diana



**Diana Rhoades**  
Director of Programs

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** John Wolfe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 1:35 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 on Trails

This bill, in my opinion, takes a very NEGATIVE viewp[oint on all points ; we need m,ore POSITIVE bills .

Please do NOT support this bill in tomorrow's hearings .

It CANCELS the current Fish Creek project

It evidently CAUSES MAJOR COSTS to the city of Anchorege

It ENDANGERS , long-term - the future prospects for present and future trails throughout Alaska .

John G. R. Wolfe 5915 Petersburg Street Anchorage AK- 99507 < [REDACTED]

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Maya Kaup [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 1:27 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** I Oppose HB 136

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my opposition of HB 136. I value connected trail systems in Anchorage and oppose HB 136 for the following reasons:

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Thank you for hearing my perspective and for prioritizing trails in our community.

Best,



**ALASKA  
TRAILS**

Maya Kaup (she/hers/her)  
Volunteer and Communications Coordinator  
Alaska Trails

c [REDACTED]

[Alaska Trail Stewards](#) | [Trails Initiative](#) | [Donate](#) | [Learn More](#)

**Building trails for Alaska's people, communities, and economy**

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** John Meyn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 12:56 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HP 136

I am against this bill because it's going to allow private landowners to block proposed by paths. John Meyn.  
Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** James Brooks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 10:18 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Cc:** 'Diana Rhoades'; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ship Creek Trail Extension - HB 136

Dear Rep. Ashley Carrick & Rep. Ted Eischeid.

Re: Fish Creek Trail Support : Opposing HB 136

I own commercial and residential properties in Spenard, Turnagain and downtown Anchorage. The connectivity between these areas of town (including the proposed Fish Creek Trail) is crucial to creating a city that is appealing to the young people that Anchorage desperately needs. Providing safe and convenient bike/pedestrian trails is one of the wonderful investments that helps improve the quality of life in Anchorage.

I strongly oppose HB 136 because it clearly favors the short-term desires of a few landowners along the Fish Creek extension/connection over the long-term needs of the greater Anchorage area.

Please oppose the HB 136.

Thank you,

J. Jay Brooks

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Eric Parsons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 is a bad move

Hi,  
I'm writing to express my concern about house bill 136 which seems to specifically target the viability of the Fish Creek Trail project in Anchorage.

The trail project over and over again has shown broad public support and would enhance bike trail connectivity for both commuting and recreational uses. The estuary itself also holds unique value for experiencing nature.

As a small business owner in Anchorage's bicycle community and lifelong bike commuter I am strongly against this bill which would pose a bad precedent for landowners assuming control and blocking trails along statewide railroad corridors.

Thank you for your time,  
Eric

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Heidi Halverson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 and 142

House Transportation Committee,

I am writing to request that you oppose HBs 136 and 142. These bills specifically threaten the development of the Fish Creek Trail development in Anchorage, which I strongly support. Public trails are beyond important in a place that needs to attract young professionals to the workforce. My husband and I, both engineers in Anchorage, regularly use the trails both for enjoyment and for commuting. Our community of friends, that includes lawyers, teachers, engineers, business owners and other young professionals value trails and public spaces to the extent that, without them, many of us likely would not live here. These public trails help make our communities a good place to raise our families.

I request that you do not support any bills that threaten the development of public trails in the State of Alaska.

Thank you,  
Heidi Halverson

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Claudia Duffield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:42 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Hb136

As a longtime resident of anchorage I strongly oppose this bill.  
The public needs access to trails for safety, physical and mental health.

Private property owners should not have jurisdiction over this access.

Thanks

Claudia Duffield  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage,  
Ak  
98508



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** John Edge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:24 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposed to HB136

Dear Legislators,

I have been an avid user of our paved and unpaved bike trails (and bike lanes) in Anchorage since our family decided to make Anchorage our home in 1997.

Since about 2007, I have been a bike commuter riding from near South Anchorage High School to the Alaska Regional Hospital campus and later to the VA campus next to Bartlett HS. Fridays thru Sundays I would often find myself taking the long way home by riding from Tikhatnu area through Mtn View, Ship Creek, Westchester, TK Coastal trail to Kincaid and then mostly residential routes to my home near SAHS. Pitstops for food in downtown and Westchester, New Sagaya on 13th are awesome to take in on a sunny Friday ride home. Over the years I have found better and safer routes by studying the bike trails/route maps and exploring on my own. Our bike commuting infrastructure has improved a lot since 2007 however the Fish Creek trail addition would add an excellent off-motorway connector to West NLight area and with a new appreciation for the nature that we can now only see from a distance.

I ask that you join the many users of our trail system in opposing HB136. It's seems very clear to me that the user base has worked long and hard to get to where we are now in the FishCreek trail extension. It would be a waste and a blow to the spirit of the group and frankly to our city which still has several "chunks" of urban scape that are hazardous to bikers and pedestrians particularly in the winter.

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access

Sincerely,  
John Edge

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Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Marie Francis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Vote NO on HB 136

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to oppose HB 136. This bill is a direct attack on public access, community values, and decades of work by Alaskans to build safe, healthy, and connected communities.

HB 136 would allow private landowners to block long-planned trails and infrastructure on the Alaska Railroad right-of-way. This is nothing short of a land grab. If passed, it will give private individuals the power to derail projects that serve thousands of Alaskans — simply because they want to treat public corridors as extensions of their own backyards.

The Fish Creek Trail is one of the most threatened. This is a project with deep community support, secured funding, and years of planning behind it, and it could be canceled if HB 136 becomes law. Even worse, the Municipality of Anchorage would be forced to repay over \$1 million in federal funds, a devastating setback for a city already facing serious infrastructure needs.

But this isn't just about Fish Creek. HB 136 sets a dangerous precedent for trails all over the state, including major projects like the Alaska Long Trail. These trails make our communities safer, healthier, more accessible, and more united. They are part of what makes Alaska a great place to live.

This bill is short-sighted, unfair, and harmful. We cannot let private interests erase public progress.

Please do the right thing and vote NO on HB 136.

Sincerely,  
Marie Francis  
Anchorage resident

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** E Durnford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 8:50 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish Creek connector project

I'm writing to voice my opposition to HB 136 which would prioritize the desires of private land owners to use the Alaska Railroad right of way as an extension of their own property.

First of all, a lot of money has been spent for the Fish Creek extension project. If this bill passes, the Municipality would have to repay over a Million dollars to the Federal Government. At a time when our state is in economic crisis, this would be a disaster for Anchorage.

I also don't think it's fair that the few who own land next to the right of way get priority over the majority who support the connector and would benefit from it. I'm currently reading a book written by Vic fisher, one of Alaska's pioneers who helped guide us to statehood. He was an urban planner who helped design many of the communities in Alaska. He believed in the good for the people not just for those who have wealth and power. I ask the board to honor his legacy.

The trail system in Anchorage is the envy of other urban communities in the lower 48. We can brag that we have more continuous miles of trails than any other city in the country and that they are used year-round. They also attract many tourists.

During Covid, it was heartwarming to see so many families using our trails and it's continued since then.

Finally, I think this bill would be a dangerous precedent and would deter and prevent other trail development. The Alaska Long Trail which is would put Alaska in the same status as the Appalachian, the Pacific Crest or the John Muir Trail could be endangered if this bill passes.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Durnford

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Ed brewer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 8:45 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB136

We oppose adoption of HB136, the privatization of public use corridors bill. There have been a number of traditional routes / trails lost in the valley, limiting access of residents to public lands and connections to established roads.

Conflicts with landowners have been contentious. If anything, the law needs to be clarified that traditional access must be maintained.

In Anchorage, 136 would allow one family to block the established route from fish creek /northern lights north to the Coastal Trail, which the same guy also blocked for years. The coastal trail is now a popular tourist activity, mentioned in most guides to the city as a must do.

The route along the Railroad corridor had been used for decades by citizens, until blocked by private fencing and the Railroads attempts to limit liability.

The coastal trail north of the Elderberry follows a similar route.

136 is a land grab. Don't support it.

Ed Brewer  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Brooke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 7:56 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136

Good morning,

Please oppose HB 136. The Fish Creek trail will dramatically improve access to green space in Spenard and Turnagain, and making city trails more connected benefits all of Anchorage. Allowing a small number of private landowners to block this project so they can treat the railroad right of way like their own private property does not make sense. Access to connected trails makes our communities stronger, our commutes safer, and our population healthier. Please vote NO on HB 136.

Thank you

Brooke Berens

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Angie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 7:28 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** : Please Oppose HB 136 and HB 142 – Support the Fish Creek Trail

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB 136 and HB 142, which threaten the long-planned Fish Creek Trail Connection in west Anchorage.

This one-mile trail would close a key gap in our non-motorized transportation network, improving safety and access for people walking and biking. It has been part of Anchorage's community vision for nearly 30 years and is widely supported by residents, with four voter-approved bonds and nearly 1,000 petition signatures.

Over \$1 million has already gone into planning and design, with strong support from groups like Bike Anchorage, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and local community councils.

HB 136 and HB 142 would allow a few adjacent landowners to block public trail projects along railroad corridors—putting community-supported infrastructure at risk. These bills appear to be a legislative end-run around the court decision in Flying Crown Subdivision v. Alaska Railroad.

If passed, these bills could halt the Fish Creek Trail and others like it across the state, and even force repayment of federal funds already spent.

Please support safe, connected trails and long-term public investments by voting NO on HB 136 and HB 142.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angie Oberlitner

[REDACTED] Anchorage, Alaska 99502



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Eleanor McMahon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 7:24 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish Creek Trail

Our Family has lived by the lagoon for 38 years!

When we moved here it was mostly about access to the trails.

We raised our children with a sense of wonder as we rode our bikes to all schools, walked to friends houses on the Westchester Trail.

We used to walk that Fish creek trail daily until the private bit we carefully crossed was blocked. We watched foxes and Sandhill cranes in the estuary.

The children are all tax paying adults now and long for this trail to be opened so they too can bike to friends in Turnagain, access Rustic goat and access the trail into the city.

Please Open this corridor!

Eleanor and Richard McMahon

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Ak



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Julie Morris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 7:16 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136

Hello,

I am an Anchorage resident in opposition of HB 136.

Public trails are what make Anchorage great. They connect us, make us healthier, and access to nature is the entire reason I (and so many of my friends and colleagues) live in Anchorage.

Allowing HB 136 sends the wrong message about what matters to our community, and will put private interests over the best part of Anchorage: our community, our nature, and our trails.

Julia Morris

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** e hannes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:45 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB 136 and HB142

Dear House Transportation Members,

Trails are an essential part of our communities, providing safe spaces for recreation, commuting, and enjoying the outdoors.

It's not right for a few wealthy landowners to override established community priorities and long-term public investments.

I ask you to support keeping the Fish Creek Trail moving forward **by opposing HB 136 and HB 142.**

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mary E Hammes

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Bonnie Lind <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:08 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB136

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** CJ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:19 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** I oppose HB 136

I oppose HB 136.

I oppose blocking access for Fish Creek Trail. This sets a bad precedent for future projects that cater to the interest of private entities. The state of Alaska owes it to the citizens to have priority on projects, that benefit all, not just the few.

Fish creek trail is already a great resource in Anchorage and completing the trail will make it a gem along with our other trails. Trails make this city great. It is one of the few things that make this a great city to live, work and play in.

Do not prioritize private interests over the public's access. Anchorage needs more safe trails, healthier opportunities for running and walking, and ways to safely connect our neighborhoods.

Chris Jackson  
Anchorage, AK 99501

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Elayne Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:58 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Vote no to HB 136

Please do not approve HB 136.

Our trails are such an amazing benefit to our communities and state. Thank you for supporting us and them for recreation and tourism.

Allowing private property to block the connection of trails and our ability to develop a south- North Long Trail would reduce an opportunity to make Alaska an international hiking destination and honor our forefathers and mothers that walked this beautiful state.

Elayne Hunter

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[REDACTED]

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Jon Cecil [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:55 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136

I am an Anchorage resident and an avid recreational trail user. I am writing to express my concern about HB 136, a bill that would allow private landowners to block recreational trails and other public infrastructure in the Alaska Railroad corridor.

The Fish Creek Trail has broad public support—including mine—and funding that could be canceled if this bill passes. The Municipality of Anchorage would be required to repay \$1 million in federal funding.

HB 136 sets a terrible precedent for statewide trail projects such as the proposed Alaska Long Trail. Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. Private interests should not trump public access.

Please OPPOSE HB 136. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jon Cecil  
[REDACTED]

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** petra.wilmworks.com [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:51 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** What's our brand?

Amazing public trails for locals and visitors

or

Private land-holder's paradise?

Please think about the future for many Alaskans instead of the heirs of a few — and OPPOSE HB 136.

Thank you,  
Fairbanks born and raising my family in Anchorage.

Heavy user of the coastal trail and Fish Creek social trails,

Petra Wilm

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Jersey Girl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:50 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** We oppose HB 136

Private landowners should not be permitted to block public access to trails. Trails make our communities safer, healthier and connected, while reducing road traffic—essential for making Anchorage a good place to raise a family.

Suzanne & Michael Wheatall

[REDACTED]. Anchorage, Ak 99507

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Aimee Chauvot [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:43 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Email in Opposition of HB136

Trails make our communities safer, healthier and more connected. Protect the Fish Creek trail.

Aimee Chauvot  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK 99504

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Lauren Cusimano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 7:08 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 136

Hello,

HB 136 is a bill that could block the Fish Creek Trail project by allowing private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.

The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.

What's more, this sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail. Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Thank you so much for your time.

—  
Lauren Cusimano  
she/her/hers  
[laurencusimano.com](http://laurencusimano.com)

I live and work on Dena'ina etnena in Dgheyey Kaq'/Anchorage.

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Will Elliott [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:31 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 Comments

Dear members of the committee,

I'm writing to register my opposition to HB 136, which I understand will be discussed at Tuesday's hearing. I read the text of the bill online and see a potential conflict with the Fish Creek trail project, which is already partly underway.

That new trail will be a much-needed connector in Anchorage. We tout the Coastal Trail and Weschester Lagoon as two jewels of the city, but they are hard to access from a lot of parts of Anchorage, because the actual connectors to the trail are so few. I live off Minnesota and need to go way out of my way to get to the Coastal Trail, for example, because there isn't an entry point near me.

The Fish Creek Connector solves that problem without bothering anyone, because it would follow the railroad. From what I can tell, the "use of easement" section of HB 136 would interfere with that, by turning over "use" of the railroad right of way— built with public money for the public benefit as infrastructure for development —to any random property owner whose land the right of way crosses.

We don't let business owners obstruct the sidewalk. We wouldn't let a homeowner barricade a frontage road because they don't like traffic going past. We wouldn't let someone string a cable across a river to prevent anyone else from running their boat. We shouldn't let a private party interfere with the railroad right of way, either— even if they happen to have property adjacent. And especially when a multimillion dollar improvement project is underway.

If you are pro-development, you should oppose HB 136; otherwise it opens up the door for people to lock up land and stand in the way of development and progress for both residents and visitors to our city.

Thank you for taking my comment,

Will Elliott  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Charles Couvillion <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:24 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I strongly oppose HB 136 and support the extension of the Fish Creek trail.

This trail is in the public interest and will greatly improve the general public's quality of life. Private land owners were also opposed to the building of the Coastal Trail in the '80's, but now it is seen as a gem of Anchorage, used by many and has certainly increased property values in the area.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you.

—Charles Couvillion

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Germaine Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 6:08 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish Creek Connector

I am in opposition to HB 136 and stopping The Fish Creek Connector for several reasons, as stated below:

1. When my kids were young we went to Elderberry park, off the Coastal Trail to play and watch the train go by. We even biked there and there was no hazard to my children, anyone else or the train.
2. Biking as a form of transportation and fitness is taking off in Anchorage. There are tons of bikers on all of the trails. Please do not let the selfishness of the few ruin access for the many. Lots of people have bikers going by their homes on the Coastal Trail. I live near Chester Creek and love seeing all sorts of bikers, walkers and baby strollers going by my house.
3. Alaskan's love the outdoors but we are squeezing them into limited space because of trail access. Please do not take away the ability to make more trails, this bill will be setting a bad precedent.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully

Germaine Myerchin Thomas

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99508

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Terri Wurm <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 5:33 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish creek trail

I fully support the Fish Creek Trail project, private landowners do not have more or greater rights than the many Anchorage residents who will use and appreciate this trail. Our once beautiful city is looking pretty shabby these days for many reasons, our trail system is still one of the best things about living in Anchorage, keep it going and expanding!  
Sent from my iPad

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Julie Merrill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 4:56 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** OPPOSE HB 136

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly oppose HB 136. The Fish Creek Trail will be a vital part of our incredible trail system that helps improve the quality of life in Anchorage. The addition of the Coastal Trail years ago has exceeded our wildest dreams with both improving property values and bringing joy to the countless users of the trail. This long awaited trail connection has my strongest support. I had the privilege of living near downtown for 18 years and used the trails many times per week. Currently I live in a different area of town and love exploring even more trails and connections.

Biking has gained immense popularity and there are hundreds of year round commuters, let alone daily users year round. Having safe access to and from neighborhoods is vital to our community. The community and the future need to be the priorities with this decision, not the whim of a few private landowners.

Sincerely,

Julie Merrill  
Anchorage resident of 35 years

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Sarah Heck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 4:31 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish Creek Trail

Good afternoon,

I am an owner of a house in Airport Heights and have been a resident in Anchorage for over 25 years. I have enjoyed the trail system to commute to and from work, recreate, and spend time with friends and family. I am against HB 136 for many reasons and it takes away your constituents access to public lands. Here are some bullet points I am concerned about:

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Thank you for voting NO on HB 136.

Sincerely,

Sarah Heck

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Sarah Heck



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** frank lahr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 4:30 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I am against passage of HB 136 which would give landowners priority over Alaska Railroad easement land that borders their own land. Nobody should have the right to block others from using an easement simply because they own land that connects to it! Specifically, the proposed Fish Creek Trail has been in planning stages for years and money has been allocated to its production but now someone has figured out a way to cancel this access through railroad land that isn't even theirs but borders their land. This is a very bad precedent to set and it reeks of rich landowners using new laws to get what they want and in this case that is domain over railroad corridor land to protect their own land. I am asking you to defeat HB 136.

Thank you,  
Frank Lahr

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** wrcRS64 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:32 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposed to HB 136

House Transportation Committee,

Thank you for your time. I am writing this email to oppose House Bill 136. The Fish Creek Trail in Anchorage has made its way through many hurdles and has had consistent support from Anchorage citizens. This trail does not have the support of the handful of people who live near a railroad track near Fish Creek. To make adjustments to Alaska Statute because a few people don't want a trail in their backyard is ridiculous. Transportation is one of the government's primary objectives, and this trail will benefit many people and their movements around the city.

Thank you again,  
Clinton Hodges III

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Kerry Lynch <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:17 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 public comment

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 136. Making use of railroad right of ways for compatible transportation modes like trails is a smart way for Anchorage to make use of transportation corridors for the most public benefit. West Anchorage made the right decision decades ago to ensure ample public access points to our coastal resources including parks, beach and trail access. This makes West Anchorage a better place to live and the Fish Creek Trail extension project is an important part of extending that access to even more of our community. On the contrary, Rep Kopp is advocating for the model South Anchorage and Oceanview chose by blocking access to the coast and Campbell Lake and reserving the enjoyment of natural areas for a few private individuals.

This bill is part of that ongoing effort to block a south extension of our popular Coastal Trail from Kincaid to Turnagain Arm, a project that has been a top priority of every community plan for decades. Please consider the best use of Railroad Right of Way for public benefit which will pay off tenfold for our entire city and the state over allowing a few individuals to dictate how these important corridors are used.

Thank you,  
Kerry Lynch  
West Anchorage, District 16-H

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 3:04 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Support Fish Creek Trail

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I support the Fish Creek connector trail and urge you to oppose HB136. I live on Forest Park Drive (not far from Fish Creek) and frequently use my bike for both recreation and transportation. Interestingly, when the Coastal Trail was built in the 1980s many landowners opposed it for the same NIMBY reasons this trail is being opposed. What an asset the Anchorage Coastal Trail is, and property values have increased for homes close to the trail. Trails encourage me to travel by bike instead of my car - better for both me and the community (fewer cars on the road and less pollution.). Thank you for considering my opinions, and I hope you vote against HB136.

Best wishes,  
Joan Frankevich  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Steve Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:42 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 136, which will allow private landowners to block public trails and infrastructure in the railroad corridors.

If this bill passes, the Fish Creek Trail project, located in Anchorage, will likely be cancelled. The project has broad public support and already has more than one million dollars in federal funding, which would have to be returned to the federal government by the Municipality of Anchorage.

HB 136 would also threaten other projects in the planning stage, such as the Alaska Long Trail.

Connected public trail systems contribute to better communities. Opposition to rail trails is typically based on unrealistic fears of public access to public lands. That is why I oppose HB 136.

--  
Steve Johnson  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Greg Lyall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:40 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Cc:** info@bikeanchorage.org  
**Subject:** Do not pass HB 136

Local support for the Fish Creek trail far outweighs the complaints of the landowners now lobbying you to pass HB 136. Consider the good of the community, not selfish private interests. This project was well on the way to successful completion and had funding in place. Building it should be a common priority. Who do you represent anyway? Monica Jenicek Lyall

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Teri <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:34 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 Fish Creek Trail Connector Project

Please do not pass this bill as I have listed a few reasons I believe not to.

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

I am an Alaskan born in this state who make it my and my family's home. I use this trail throughout the winter and summer.

Thank you.

Teri Penn

Sent from my iPad

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Jeanette Alas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** No to HB 136

One of the best reasons to live in Anchorage is our extensive and accessible multi-use trail system. The Fish Creek Trail will create easy access for many residents and make our trail system even better. Please do not let a few wealthy residents deprive everyone else of the enjoyment of additional trails. Trails make it easy for us to get out and exercise and enjoy the small strips of greenbelts throughout our community. Trail connectivity makes our city better!!! Please say no to HB 136.

Thank you,  
Jeanette



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Mark Spano [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 12:40 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 and HB 142

Dear members of the Transportation Committee,

Please oppose HB 136 and HB 142. They would give undue power to a few people living near railroad right of ways to oppose public projects that benefit the greater population. As an example, the Fish Creek Estuary Trail has been in planning documents for decades and voters in Anchorage have approved four bonds in the last few years to support the project. One million dollars has already been spent to push the project forward. This project would benefit the public greatly by filling a gap in the existing trail system and the public is eager to complete it. It would be terrible if a nearby homeowner could derail the project because they don't want the public using public land near their residence.

Please support the greater good by opposing these bills.

thanks,  
Mark Spano  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Dean Potter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 12:07 PM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 & 142

Dear House Transportation Committee,

Please oppose HB 136 and HB 142.

Often the use of the term "NIMBY" is figurative. In the case of these bills, it is literal. The bills are custom-ordered to allow a handful of people to deny the vast majority of Alaskans the benefits of the Fish Creek Trail in Anchorage.

There is no transportation goal or principle of law in question. The trail is obviously good for mobility and recreation, as affirmed by AMATS (Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions) and Anchorage Parks & Recreation. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge the Alaska Railroad's right to determine uses of its property and easements.

There is only the transparent desire of some privileged landowners not to have to see their fellow Alaskans commuting to work, walking dogs, or riding bikes with their kids. The same landowners pay Rep. Kopp, the bills' sponsor, for his consulting services; they have failed to get their way with the Alaska Railroad; and they face a dead end in court.

Advancing these bills would threaten the independence of the Alaska Railroad and its accountability to all the people of Alaska. And it would open the door to limitations on other publicly-managed corridors and infrastructure.

HB 136 and 142 are bad policy and bad governance. Please do not support their advancement.

Thank you,  
Dean Potter  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Andrea Clark [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:48 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB136

Hello

I live in Anchorage and I oppose HB 136 because more trails are crucial for our future. We need to work toward more safe outdoor spaces and easier access for Alaskans to get outside.

We own 2 homes in Anchorage and so I do understand the property owner perspective, but our community is more important in this type of situation in my opinion.

Please choose a healthier and more connected future Anchorage for us and for the next generation.

Thank you

Andrea Clark

Zodiac Manor neighborhood

99507

Sent from my iPhone

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Chris Richardson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:45 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 136

Hello,

I'm writing to let you know that I oppose HB 136 as written, as I understand that this law would keep new trails from being built in Anchorage.

Thanks for your hard work on other issues.

Chris Richardson

Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Peter Tallman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:27 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

Hello,

I am writing to communicate my strong opposition to HB 136.

Alaska needs more trails and more public infrastructure- this bill is a threat to that goal and serves the narrow interests of a few. I'm watching this bill and its supporters closely for future voting.

Please oppose HB 136

-Peter Tallman  
Alaskan resident since 2003

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:16 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 and 142

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I am writing to ask for your help in opposing HB 136 and HB 142, two bills introduced by Rep. Chuck Kopp that threaten the Fish Creek Trail Connection project, a long-planned, community-supported trail in west Anchorage that would fill a critical gap in our community's non-motorized transportation network.

For nearly three decades, the Fish Creek Trail Connection has been part of Anchorage's long-term vision for safe, accessible, and connected trails. It will fill a one-mile gap between existing multi-use trails, improving access to outdoor recreation and providing a safer route for people walking and biking. Anchorage voters have repeatedly shown their support by approving four bonds to fund the project since 2020, and a petition in support of Fish Creek last fall received nearly 1,000 signatures. To date, over \$1 million has been spent on planning, design, and environmental work, and the project is strongly backed by citizens and organizations like Bike Anchorage, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and community councils.

These two bills would create new legal barriers for public trails built along railroad corridors:

- HB 136 would prioritize the desires of private landowners near railroad easements over public trails and other such projects that benefit the whole community.
- HB 142 would require the approval of adjacent landowners before a trail could be built within a railroad easement, giving a small number of wealthy individuals veto power over major public infrastructure projects.

These bills tie back to a larger legal fight involving the 2023 case *Flying Crown Subdivision v. Alaska Railroad Corporation*, which also addressed private landowners wishing to use railroad easements as an extension of their own property. It was decided in favor of the Railroad, upheld at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, then appealed to the Supreme Court. One landowner near the proposed Fish Creek Trail project signed onto an amicus brief in this case for the explicit purpose of creating a legal mechanism to stop the trail. The Supreme Court declined to overturn the Railroad's victory in this case, and HB 136 and HB 142 have now emerged as an attempt to achieve the same result through legislation.

If these bills pass, the Fish Creek Trail project, and potentially other trails locally and statewide, could be delayed indefinitely or stopped altogether. The city could also be required to repay more than \$1 million in federal funds already allocated to the project.

Trails are an essential part of our communities, providing safe spaces for recreation, commuting, and enjoying the outdoors. It's not right for a few wealthy landowners to override established community priorities and long-term public investments. We ask for your support in keeping the Fish Creek Trail moving forward by opposing HB 136 and HB 142.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jack Mosby  
Year Round Anchorage Trail User

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Luise Woelflein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:10 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Fish Creek Trail Connection Project

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I am writing to ask you to oppose HB136.

The Fish Creek Trail has broad support in Anchorage! There is already funding in place. If you pass HB136, Anchorage will have to pay back \$1M in federal funding. What a waste that would be!

Trails like this on create safer, healthier ways to get around the city.

PRIVATE landowners shouldn't be allowed to block trails and other PUBLIC infrastructure in the railroad corridor. Private interests should not trump the public good. Don't lock up public resources!

If you pass this bill for a trail decades in the planning, what is it going to do to other long-term connecting trails like the Alaska Long Trail?

Thank you for your consideration,

Luise Woelflein  
Anchorage resident of 29 years



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:10 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Cc:** Rep. Alyse Galvin  
**Subject:** HB 136, An Act relating to use of railroad easements

The intent of HB 136 is not clear to me. What is very clear to me is that use of Railroad ROW in order of priority is:

1. For use by the railroad
2. For use by the public
3. For use by public utilities
4. For use by private utilities that serve the public
5. and lastly, for use by adjacent landowners, and only through short term easements.

The Alaska Railroad is owned by the State of Alaska and thus its ROW belongs to the citizens of the State of Alaska. Its use shall be for the greater good. Not private interests.

HB 136 should not be moved forward.

Sincerely,

Bob Butera

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** David Matt Duncan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Support for fish creek trail and against HB136

- Dear House Transportation Friends,

The bullet points below are the valid points made by our friends at bike Anchorage. More importantly to me is the following. The trail connecting fish creek trail at Northwood to the ocean is a thousand years old trail. Long before we came to Alaska the native Alaskans traveled that corridor and still travel it today. We have greatly disrespected this trail, cutting it up, building a railroad over it, limiting access, cutting down the forest around it, destroying old hermit park, and yet people still travel this ancient trail. When the railroad destroyed the old trail, we were promised a new trail. It is time to make good on that promise. Other good reasons you have already heard are below.

HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.

- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Warm regards and respect for the hard work you do,

D. Matt Duncan

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Jack Brothers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:46 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I support the Fish Creek Trail project and am opposed to HB 136 or any other bill that would allow a few private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.

Sincerely,

Jack Brothers  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Paul Ferucci [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:45 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** No to HB136

Please do not allow HB136 to pass. The Fish Creek Trail project already has broad public support and funding in place. As a lifelong Anchorage resident I enjoy our multi use trails and hope that generations to come can do the same. The Fish Creek Trail is good for our city and the public!

Thank you,  
Paul Ferucci  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Nathan West [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:34 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136 input

I am a resident of Anchorage, Alaska and HB 136 recently came to my attention.

I oppose HB 136 and have three primary concerns with this bill and its sponsorship.

1. HB 136 adds cost and risk to public infrastructure projects by allowing private landowners adjacent to ARCC land to block and stall projects. This doesn't serve the public well and will only increase the expense of projects.
2. The bill sponsor, Chuck Kopp, is conflicted and should step aside from the matter. As a principal of Winfluence strategies Chuck Kopp has consulted for pay in a matter directly affected by this bill as recently as November 2024. This is a public record available in the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors meeting January 2025 which adopted the minutes from the November 2024 meeting. Those minutes read Chuck Kopp of Winfluence Strategies commenting on the location of the Fish Creek trail project in Anchorage. Accepting pay to negotiate with the ARCC while member-elect, then introducing legislation that directly affects that negotiation is at best a conflict of interest and possibly much worse. All members changing ARCC operating power should disclose private matters they have interest in with the ARCC.
3. Regarding specific projects that this impacts, the Fish Creek trail project in Anchorage has several issues complicating the matter including whether the trail would be built on ARCC land or an easement in favor of ARCC. The prior permits by Chuck Kopp's Winfluence Strategies client, John Haxby, indicate acknowledgement that the ARCC owns this land, so this bill should be a moot point on that project, and it increases risk of other very popular public infrastructure projects such as the Alaska Long Trail.

In the case of a public corporation, keeping the government small is difficult, but let the corporation negotiate its rights in the best interests of the corporation and public. We don't need layers and layers of big government bureaucracy getting in the way of local trail projects with broad support.

[0] Approved ARCC Meeting Minutes from November 2024 with Chuck Kopp of Winfluence Strategies advocating on behalf of a client. [https://www.alaskarailroad.com/sites/default/files/2025January27-ARRC\\_POSTED\\_BOARDBOOK.resized.pdf](https://www.alaskarailroad.com/sites/default/files/2025January27-ARRC_POSTED_BOARDBOOK.resized.pdf)

[1] Reporting that Chuck Kopp of Winfluence Strategies is working for John Haxby Fish Creek trail negotiations directly effected by this legislation <https://alaskalandmine.com/landmines/unexplained-halt-of-fish-creek-trail-connection-project-prompts-confusion-outrage/>

I am an Alaskan resident and I oppose HB 136 and think it is motivated by conflict of interest rather than for the good of most Alaskans or the ARCC.

Nathan West

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Gary one <a [REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

We use the trails to ride to work trails in anchorage is what makes this place great to visit and live I oppose HB 136

Sent from my iPhone

**Griffen Sukkaew**

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**From:** Jeff Lucas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

We are against HB 136

HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure.

My wife and I are against that.

Jeff Lucas  
Jeanne Pepperlucas

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Carla (Ky) Hollingsworth <j[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:21 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HB 136 and HB 142

**Dear House Transportation Committee,**

I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB 136 and HB 142, introduced by Rep. Chuck Kopp. These bills would block progress on the Fish Creek Trail Connection project in Anchorage. There are many reasons that stopping the community supported trail in West Anchorage would be a poor idea. Locally, the public work and vision of decades would be halted. But the unprecedented expanded private rights relating to public railway easements will affect projects in the entire state.

People are literally drawn to live in Anchorage due in part by the recreational and useful trail accessibility of the city. But there are significant gaps between sections of trails. This Fish Creek Connection is one of the biggest. Currently people must travel along busy automobile corridors due to lack of this one mile connecting trail. Anchorage has a problem with pedestrians and cyclist deaths in automobile accidents. Decades of work have gone into getting this trail completed in order to increase safety, ease of travel and recreational access to the trails.

These two bills were introduced in response to concerns of a small group of neighbors, who weren't able to get their way through a court battle, and who object to the Fish Creek Trail crossing a publicly owned easement near their properties. Yet, for nearly 30 years, Anchorage's safe, accessible and connected trails plan has officially included the Fish Creek Trail Connection.

These bills create new legal barriers for public trails built along railroad corridors and will have an effect statewide.

- HB 136 would prioritize the desires of private landowners near railroad easements over public trails and other such projects that benefit the whole community.
- HB 142 would require the approval of adjacent landowners before a trail could be built within a railroad easement. This would give a small number of individuals veto power over major public infrastructure projects on public lands.

These bills would negate years of local public involvement, waste the funds already invested in the planning process, and undermine the broad community vision for a pedestrian-and-cyclist-safe Anchorage. They will make changes to public railroad easement permissions for projects statewide.

Please oppose these bills. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla Hollingsworth  
Alaska citizen, Anchorage resident and public trail user.



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Anne Hillman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 10:09 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 136

Dear House Transportation Committee Members,

One of the main reasons I live in Anchorage is because the quality of life is improved by an extensive, accessible trail network. HB 136 endangers that network and the Fish Creek Trail extension. It also potentially endangers future trails elsewhere in the state. While I respect that landowners want control of adjacent properties, easements exist for the greater good. Please oppose HB 136.

Sincerely,  
Anne Hillman

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Kathleen Worthley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:50 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB136

House Transportation Committee,

**I oppose HB136 as an avid bike rider who loves the Alaska trails.**

**Furthermore**

- HB 136 would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.
- The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.
- This sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail.
- Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. We shouldn't prioritize private interests over public access.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen D Worthley

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Lynn Thomas <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB136

As a constituent of Anchorage, I am in opposition to this bill. I feel it's such a bad precedent for our trail system in Alaska.

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Mike Miller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB136 and 142

I urge you to oppose HB136.

If this passes it would allow a few wealthy landowners to control and prevent public access that has been traditional for decades. This Fish Creek Trail project has public support since 2020 and already has funding in place.

Also oppose HB 142. This would require approval of adjacent land owners before a trail could be built. This would essentially stop the Fish Creek Trail project.

In 2023 the legal case of flying crown subdivision versus Alaska Railroad corporation ruled in the favor of the railroad over the adjacent land owners. This further substantiates the case to oppose any control of the area by adjacent landowners.

Trails are good for the community. This Fish Creek Trail has been supported by the community for years. If these bills pass the city would have to repay more than \$1 million in federal funds already allocated to the project.

Please support the desire of the majority, to the benefit of a broader community, by opposing how to spell 136 and 142.

Thank you

Mike Miller  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, Ak 99507

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Steve Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:39 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** No to HB 136

I am opposed to HB 136 which would potentially block the Fish Creek trail connector and possibly other trails in the future. As an Anchorage resident I am a trail system user all year round. I also believe the Alaska Long Trail is a fantastic idea which would draw tourists and development to benefit the entire State.

Steve Thomas  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99516

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Clarke Pelz <c[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:38 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 136 and HB 142

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 136 and HB 142, bills that threaten the Fish Creek Trail Connection project. The Fish Trail project is a community-supported trail in west Anchorage that would fill a gap in Anchorage's non-motorized transportation network.

For nearly three decades, the Fish Creek Trail Connection has been part of Anchorage's long-term vision for safe, accessible, and connected trails. It will fill a one-mile gap between existing multi-use trails providing a safe route for people walking and biking.

Anchorage voters have approved four bonds to fund the project since 2020, and a petition in support of Fish Creek last fall received nearly 1,000 signatures. Over \$1 million has been spent on its planning and design and it is strongly backed by citizens, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and community councils.

These two bills would create new legal barriers for public trails built along railroad corridors:

- HB 136 would prioritize the desires of private landowners near railroad easements over public trails and other such projects that benefit the whole community.
- HB 142 would require the approval of adjacent landowners before a trail could be built within a railroad easement, giving a small number of wealthy individuals veto power over major public infrastructure projects.

If these bills pass, the Fish Creek Trail project, and other trails statewide could be delayed or stopped and the city could be required to repay more than \$1 million in federal funds already allocated to the project.

Trails are an essential part of our communities, providing safe spaces for recreation, commuting, and enjoying the outdoors. It's not right for a few wealthy landowners to override established community priorities and long-term public investments. We ask for your support in keeping the Fish Creek Trail moving forward by opposing HB 136 and HB 142.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

-Clarke Pelz.

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Marley Mace <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:37 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 136 – Protect Public Trails and Infrastructure

Hello,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 136. As a bike commuter, I depend on safe, connected trails to travel to and from work. HB 136 would jeopardize essential public infrastructure by allowing private landowners to block trails built in the railroad corridor—an area that has long been used for public benefit.

One key project at risk is the Fish Creek Trail, which enjoys broad public support and already has funding in place. If this bill passes, the Municipality of Anchorage could be forced to cancel the project and repay over \$1 million in federal funds. That's a loss we simply cannot afford—financially or in terms of community progress.

Even more concerning, HB 136 sets a dangerous precedent that could derail other vital efforts across Alaska, including the Alaska Long Trail. Trails are not just recreational luxuries—they make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. Prioritizing narrow private interests over long-standing public access threatens the well-being and growth of our cities and towns.

I urge you to oppose HB 136 and stand up for public access, smart infrastructure, and a healthier future for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Marley Mace  
Anchorage, AK 99507

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Dorothy Morrison [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:32 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

I am an active senior citizen who treasures access to Alaska's trails and public spaces.

I oppose HB 136 because:



Please do NOT pass this bill 🙏

Sincerely,  
DMorrison

Sent from my iPhone



## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** jean funatake <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB136

Please do not vote for HB136.

This bill would allow landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the railroad corridor.

The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public support and funding already in place, could be canceled if this bill passes, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.

The bill would set an unfortunate precedent over other proposed public trail projects.

Your constituent  
Jeanne Funatake

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Julian Muller <j[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:13 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** Opposition to HB 136

Dear House Transportation Committee,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 136 being discussed on Tuesday. While I am not able to call in to the hearing, I need you to know how devastating this bill would be to the trust voters in this community have that their votes and voices matter.

In particular, Fish Creek Trail, which has gone through multiple rounds of voter approval and funding, needs to just get built already. The fact that instead we're up against another potential roadblock, and wealthy private entities are able to keep blocking public infrastructure in the railroad corridor right of way is deeply disappointing.

Please do the right thing and prioritize trails that make our communities safer, healthier, and happier. Prioritize the voice of the broad majority instead of a few wealthy individuals. Prioritize protecting public right-of-way access. Vote against HB 136.

Thank you.  
Julian Muller  
Anchorage 99517

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** Khrys Duddleston <k[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:13 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

To the House Transportation Committee,  
I write to urge you vote against  
HB 136, which would allow private landowners to block trails and other public infrastructure in the  
railroad corridor.

HB 136 sets a dangerous precedent for trail projects statewide, such as the Alaska Long Trail, as well as  
local trails such as The Fish Creek Trail. Indeed, if passed, The Fish Creek Trail, which has broad public  
support and funding already in place, could be cancelled, and the Municipality of Anchorage would have  
to pay back over \$1 million in federal funding.

Trails make our communities safer, healthier, and more connected. They are good for the communities  
and citizens in our great State. We should not prioritize private interests over public access.  
Again, I urge you to vote against HB 136.

Sincerely,  
Khrys Duddleston  
Anchorage

## Griffen Sukkaew

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**From:** William Nye <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 4, 2025 9:09 AM  
**To:** House Transportation  
**Subject:** HB 136

This Bill is a horrible idea that prioritizes the wishes of a few over the good of the many. I am a conductor and engineer for the Alaska RR and one of the best things about the RR is that its right of way is used for public benefit from Seward to Fairbanks. There are bike trails, shared bridges, parks, beaches, and loads of public spaces all because of the AKRR ROW.

Please let this Bill die. It's bad for nearly all Alaskans.

-William Nye  
Spenard

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