

From: [Susan A](#)
To: [Senate State Affairs](#)
Subject: Public Testimony SB 166
Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:11:07 PM

Public Testimony SB 166 Strongly oppose as written:

Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I stand before you today to call out the dangerous and unjust trajectory we are on as we discuss the deregulation of vital protections, the disassembly of our government, and the blatant disregard for the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our society.

These policies—whether deliberately or unintentionally—echo the discriminatory practices of the Jim Crow era. While the rhetoric around “economic efficiency” and “freedom” may seem appealing to those in positions of power, the reality is that these actions disproportionately harm Black, Native, low-income, and rural communities—the very groups that have historically faced systemic oppression.

This Is What It Is—A Return to Jim Crow-Era Inequities:

The dismantling of public services, environmental protections, and worker rights without regard to their disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities echoes the Jim Crow policies of racial segregation and disenfranchisement. While the laws of the land may have formally removed the separate-but-equal structures of the past, the policies today are no less insidious. Deregulation and government disassembly create a new form of segregation where the powerful are further empowered, and the marginalized are left to fend for themselves—without the protections they desperately need.

We cannot ignore the historical precedent that is being revived today. Just as Jim Crow laws systematically dismantled the rights and protections of African Americans, the current wave of deregulation is systematically dismantling the rights and protections of marginalized communities. This is nothing less than a modern-day injustice.

Violation of Constitutional Principles:

The U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection under the law to all citizens—regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location. Yet, these deregulation efforts are in direct violation of these constitutional principles.

The Equal Protection Clause (14th Amendment) mandates that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. By eliminating protections that disproportionately benefit marginalized communities, we are denying equal protection to those most in need, perpetuating inequality and injustice.

Additionally, the right to due process, guaranteed under the 5th and 14th Amendments, is being undermined. Vulnerable populations—often without the resources or voice to defend themselves—will face irreversible consequences when they are no longer protected from harmful corporate actions, environmental degradation, and the erosion of their civil rights.

The Alaska State Constitution also enshrines equality and justice for all Alaskans—particularly in terms of protecting our Native peoples' lands, resources, and cultural integrity. The attempted disassembly of the state's regulatory apparatus does not only violate these constitutional principles, it directly threatens the sovereignty and rights of Alaska Native communities.

Corporate Greed and Disenfranchisement:

This policy framework, which seeks to weaken regulations, is built upon the backs of corporate greed. By removing necessary regulations, powerful corporations will gain the freedom to continue their exploitation—of the land, people, and resources—without facing accountability. The loopholes being created here will allow unchecked corporate actions that will disproportionately harm the environment, public health, and the rights of those already vulnerable.

The Deregulation Agenda—A Step Toward Injustice:

At its core, the deregulation agenda is not about freedom or economic efficiency—it is about stripping away protections for the vulnerable and consolidating power for the wealthy and powerful. The push to dismantle the government and remove regulatory safeguards will disproportionately harm those who already lack access to resources, including marginalized communities, who will suffer the most from the lack of protections.

This agenda not only undermines public trust in institutions that were designed to protect all people, but it also violates constitutional guarantees of fairness, equal treatment, and the right to live free from exploitation and harm. By eliminating vital regulations, we are allowing corporations to exploit workers, degrade the environment, and leave vulnerable communities without recourse when harm is done.

The Need for Justice, Not Deregulation:

This is not a time for deregulation; it is a time for justice. For those of us who have been marginalized for too long, we understand the impact that government protections—regulations, safeguards, and social safety nets—have had on our ability to survive and thrive. They are not just policies; they are lifelines.

It is unjust to remove these protections under the guise of economic efficiency when their absence will devastate the most vulnerable members of our society. True fairness and justice are not achieved through deregulation; they are achieved when we ensure that the rights, dignity, and well-being of all people—especially the marginalized—are protected and upheld.

Call to Action:

I urge this body to reject any policies that seek to further the disenfranchisement of vulnerable communities through deregulation and government disassembly. I call for a reinforcement of the protections that ensure equity, justice, and accountability in all sectors, including the environment, labor, healthcare, and civil rights. Now more than ever, we must defend these protections, not dismantle them.

We must stand firm in the belief that justice cannot be achieved when the most vulnerable are

left unprotected. Let us not return to a time when the powerful were allowed to act with impunity and the marginalized suffered in silence.

This policy of deregulation is more than just a misguided economic approach. It is a direct attack on the rights and dignity of marginalized communities, and it violates the very principles of justice and equality guaranteed by both the U.S. Constitution and the Alaska Constitution. We cannot afford to stand idly by as our most vulnerable are left to fend for themselves.

I call on all of us to recognize this for what it truly is: a dangerous return to inequity, oppression, and disenfranchisement. It is time to stand up for the rights of the people, and ensure that our laws protect all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you.
Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers

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1. Amendment for Constitutional Compliance (Equal Protection and Due Process)

- Proposed Change: Add a section that explicitly states the bill will not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and that it will ensure no discrimination based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, or disability.

- Specific Language:

"This Act shall be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, ensuring that no citizen is denied equal treatment under the law, and that marginalized or vulnerable groups, including but not limited to racial minorities, low-income individuals, and persons with

disabilities, are protected from discrimination."

- Rationale: This ensures that no community is unfairly targeted or disadvantaged, and that the bill cannot be used to justify systemic discrimination.

2. Amendment to Protect Vulnerable Communities

- Proposed Change: Establish provisions that mandate impact assessments specifically for marginalized communities, Indigenous groups, and other vulnerable populations to ensure that the bill's implementation does not disproportionately harm them.

- Specific Language:

"Before any implementation of deregulation under this Act, the relevant agency shall conduct a Social Equity Impact Assessment to evaluate the potential adverse effects on marginalized and vulnerable communities, including Indigenous populations, low-income families, and communities of color. If the assessment indicates that the proposed changes will disproportionately harm these groups, corrective measures must be taken to mitigate such impacts."

- Rationale: This ensures a proactive approach to addressing potential harm to vulnerable groups, creating a mechanism to avoid unforeseen negative consequences.

3. Amendment to Prevent Deregulation from Undermining Essential Protections

- Proposed Change: Add a safeguard to prevent the removal of key regulatory protections that ensure public health, environmental standards, and labor rights.

- Specific Language:

"Any deregulation measures introduced under this Act shall not remove or weaken regulations that are critical to protecting public health, worker rights, and environmental sustainability, including but not limited to health and safety standards, labor protections, and environmental safeguards. In cases where deregulation is deemed necessary, alternative protective measures shall be implemented to ensure public well-being is not compromised."

- Rationale: This ensures that deregulation does not inadvertently remove essential protections for workers or the environment, which could disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

4. Amendment to Address Corporate Accountability and Exploitation

- Proposed Change: Add provisions that mandate corporate accountability, especially in sectors impacted by deregulation, to prevent abuse or exploitation of workers and natural resources.

- Specific Language:

"Corporations benefiting from deregulation measures under this Act shall be held accountable for their practices, including adherence to labor laws, environmental regulations, and corporate

governance standards. Any evidence of exploitation of workers, the environment, or local communities shall result in immediate sanctions, fines, and a review of the deregulation measures applicable to the corporation."

- Rationale: This ensures that deregulation does not lead to corporate overreach or abuse at the expense of vulnerable workers or the environment.

5. Amendment for Worker Protections and Fair Wages

- Proposed Change: Insert a clause that guarantees worker protections, fair wages, and job security, particularly in industries that may experience deregulation or transition due to the bill.

- Specific Language:

"In industries impacted by deregulation under this Act, employers shall adhere to standards of fair compensation, including a living wage, and provide job security for workers affected by any restructuring or downsizing. Workers displaced by deregulation measures shall be entitled to retraining programs, job placement assistance, and financial support during the transition period."

- Rationale: This amendment will protect workers from the negative impacts of deregulation and ensure that workers are not left behind or exploited.

6. Amendment for Environmental Protections

- Proposed Change: Reinstate environmental regulations or introduce safeguards to prevent environmental degradation, particularly in industries with high environmental risks.

- Specific Language:

"Any deregulation affecting industries with high environmental impact, including oil, gas, mining, and manufacturing, shall not be allowed to override existing environmental protection standards. Additionally, measures to promote clean energy, renewable resources, and environmental sustainability shall be prioritized in any economic transition plan resulting from deregulation."

- Rationale: This amendment ensures that deregulation does not lead to environmental degradation, especially in critical sectors like fossil fuel extraction and mining, which disproportionately affect Indigenous lands and vulnerable communities.

7. Amendment to Establish Independent Oversight

- Proposed Change: Create an independent oversight committee to monitor the effects of deregulation on marginalized communities, the environment, and public health.

- Specific Language:

"An Independent Oversight Committee shall be established to monitor the ongoing implementation of deregulation measures under this Act. The committee will review the

impacts on marginalized communities, workers, and the environment, and shall have the authority to recommend corrective actions, including the reinstatement of regulations, if any adverse impacts are identified."

- Rationale: This will ensure that there is a system of checks and balances in place, holding the government accountable for the potential consequences of deregulation.

8. Amendment for Transparency and Accountability

- Proposed Change: Add a transparency clause that requires the publication of deregulation outcomes and regular reports to the public on its effects.

- Specific Language:

"All agencies responsible for implementing deregulation measures under this Act shall publish quarterly reports detailing the impact of these measures on public health, worker protections, marginalized communities, and the environment. These reports shall be made publicly available and subject to independent review."

- Rationale: Transparency will help keep both the government and corporations accountable, ensuring that the public has access to information on how deregulation affects their communities and the environment.

Conclusion

These amendments aim to:

- Protect constitutional rights, especially for vulnerable communities.
- Safeguard environmental and worker protections in light of deregulation.
- Ensure corporate accountability to prevent abuse and exploitation.
- Introduce transparency and independent oversight mechanisms to monitor the bill's impact.