

Good evening, and thank you Chair Thompson, and the rest of the House Fisheries Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify on HB85

My name is Michael Satre and I am a resident of Juneau, Alaska, am employed as the Executive Director of the Council of Alaska Producers and I am speaking on their behalf tonight. The Council of Alaska Producers is a non-profit trade association representing the producing large metal mines and developmental projects in the state of Alaska.

One of the many challenges of developing communities and projects within our great state is managing the impacts that we have on our aquatic resources. Every community and camp generates some sort of wastewater and most, if not all, projects have some sort of process or contact water. If this water is to be discharged back into the environment, there are very strict water quality standards that must be met in order to avoid impacting our surface waters.

Unfortunately, even with the best available treatment technologies, it is still possible that treated water may not meet our very stringent standards at the point of discharge. This is

why the State of Alaska, with authority granted by the Clean Water Act and the EPA, allows for the permitting of mixing zones in order for wastewater that is slightly out of compliance to be diluted into a permissible discharge.

These zones, whether they are in fresh or saltwater, are permitted through a rigorous scientific process and are truly a method of last resort to allow communities and projects to meet water quality standards.

In freshwater, the requirements for a mixing zone are even stricter. Most importantly, if a proposed mixing zone contains a spawning area for any of the five Pacific Salmon species...it cannot be permitted!

Mixing zones in freshwater spawning areas of other fish must:

- Meet statewide water quality standards plus other conditions imposed by ADF&G and ADEC.
- Have an approved mitigation plan.
- Not adversely affect the capability of an area to support future spawning, incubation and rearing activities.

Existing mixing zone regulations allow our communities and our projects to meet our strict water quality standards and ensure that we can strike a balance between developing our state and protecting our environment.

HB85 will disrupt this balance by introducing a blanket prohibition on allowing mixing zones where any anadromous fish spawn or where the resident fish redds are located for the long list of fish species listed in the proposed AS.46.03.065(2)

This
• Lack of flexibility
will place ~~unnecessary~~
additional ~~unnecessary~~ possible
insurmountable hurdles
on the development of
our state

• CAP urges you to
not pass the bill or to
amend it