



Council of  
**Alaska Producers**

**SB26: Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights**

February 7, 2013

Senator Giessel  
Chair - Senate Resources Committee  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

Chair Giessel,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) appreciates the opportunity to comment on SB26: Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights. CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large producing metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state.

Recently the State of Alaska has begun implementation of a strategy of statewide permitting reform in order to accomplish their stated objective of *"Improve the State of Alaska's permitting processes in order to advance the public interest by ensuring projects are permitted in a timely predictable and efficient manner while safeguarding the environment."*

One method of accomplishing this reform was to have the Division of Mining, Land and Water identify statutory changes that help reduce applicant costs, create efficiencies, reduce redundancies, and reduce opportunities for legal challenges in order to ensure the public can use and enjoy Alaska's lands and resources.

SB26 accomplishes this through a variety of mechanisms including allowing general permits, clarifying the appeals process, and simplifying leases and water permits. While the resource development industry is certain to be affected by this legislation, it is important to keep in mind that these provisions benefit everyone in Alaska including cabin owners, aquatic farmers, home developers and any individual who seeks to do business on state land or water.

From a CAP perspective, the State's permitting reform efforts and this legislation fits our position that permitting in Alaska must be rigorous, science based, transparent and predictable. We urge the committee members to support this bill and move it out of committee in an efficient fashion.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

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