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February 12, 2013

Via Facsimile 543-5344

Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: SB 32

Dear Committee members:

I would like to voice my opposition to SB 32. I spoke at an earlier meeting, but the time limits prevented me from touching on several points which I wanted to place on the record.

The biggest problem with the proposal to build a dam on the Allen River is cost. Even the wildly optimistic cost figures now circulating are far too expensive for the benefits that would be created. The planners have not even suggested that power from the dam would meet all the needs of the Bethel area villages, yet they responded to opposition in Bristol Bay by suggesting a power line to the Dillingham area. There simply is not enough electricity to extend both directions.

It seems a waste of money to do preliminary planning to the tune of \$10,000,000 for a project that is economically unfeasible. That money could be better spent on alternative energy projects that would start producing electricity immediately. Already several wind power projects are operating successfully in the Bethel region, and more should be considered. They could be up and running within a very short time compared to the timeline for this dam.


Downstream damage is one subject that the proponents of this dam don't wish to discuss. Such damage is the primary reason dams are being removed from rivers all over the US. Downstream from Allen River are several lakes, and then the water flows into the Nuyukuk and Nushagak rivers. Altering the flow of those rivers would be devastating to salmon runs. Alteration occurs when water is trapped in the summer and fall to save up for low flowage in the winter. That of course is prime spawning time for salmon. For that reason alone, the dam is incompatible with Park goals.

This project has numerous obstacles, which include the lack of a transmission route. The proposed transmission lines travel through two Federal refuges and approval of those lines is virtually certain to be denied. Witness the denial of a short road on a Federal refuge in the past few weeks which had considerable support from our state. That issue has been under discussion

for many years. Those who suggest the Feds will allow this transmission line are not being realistic.

What we are left with then is 10 million dollars of corporate welfare. The state is squandering money on a project that has no future. I read of the shortage of funds facing our government this year and in future years. Here is one large expenditure that should be eliminated. A dam, and studies for that dam, are simply not feasible, nor are they compatible with the Park plan.

Best regards,



Myron Angstman
Attorney at Law