

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #2
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/13/14

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Thank you. My name is Deantha Crockett, I am Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association.

AMA is the trade association representing Alaska's mining industry. Our members include small, placer mining operations, large hardrock and coal mines, mining projects in the exploration phase, and vendors and contractors that do business with the mining industry.

AMA is on the record of supporting HB77 when the bill was heard last year, and we remain very supportive of the provisions outlined in the committee substitute. There are a few key provisions in this version that AMA feels will help encourage investment in Alaska's mining industry.

This has not excluded opportunities for public input. Since starting the permitting reform initiative in 2011, the state permitting agencies have consulted with hundreds of Alaskans, with many public meetings and stakeholder input to develop initiatives that improve our permitting system. Hb77 is the third bill resulting from that effort.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 clearly states there is requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. These cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 also requires that appeals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. We believe this brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Critically, HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise at our state resource agencies.

I call attention to the document in your packet and posted to basis that we put together with Resource Development Council to specifically outline why management of our water resources by state agencies is critical. Clearly, water reservations are being used to stop, block and certainly delay projects, particularly in my industry, but in the oil and gas utilities sectors as well. Water should be managed by state agencies with the expertise and capability to most effectively manage Alaska's water bodies, and we feel that hb77 does that.

We commend this committee and the Parnell Administration for the CS version H of HB77 and think it is best for Alaska's economy that this bill be passed and enacted as soon as possible. Thank you!

From: Michael Jespersen

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:03 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: sen.bertha.gardne@akleg.gov

Subject: HB77 Please place these comments in the official record

Chairperson Senator Giessel and Senator Gardner,

I wanted to testify on HB77 today but didn't get the opportunity. I am sending this while I sit in the Anchorage LIO.

The format isn't great here as it was originally intended to be given verbally. Here it is anyway:

HB77

Have people read this bill when they say public comments are not allowed? The bill allows public comment prior to any permit being issued. The bill allows for a reasonable time period to challenge a permit after it has been issued.

After a permit is issued and the challenge period is passed, this bill requires organizations and people show they are being harmed prior to being able to challenge the permit.

Prior to any development rigorous scientific work must be done and approved by many governmental agencies for permits to be issued. Current law allows whomever gets paperwork done first to get a water reservation permit. That gives an advantage to anyone wanting to block development as they do not need anywhere near the same level of rigor required by developers.

Pass HB77 it allows public testimony and requires people to show harm if they choose to challenge a permit after it is issued.

Now that you had a chance to read my comments as I wanted to deliver them in verbally I'd like to say a few additional things.

1-Anchorage has more people than any other area of the state yet other LIO's and people calling in (Nequist, 3 people on one phone line got 2 minutes each without moving to other areas. Sorry I spelled the village wrong I couldn't find the proper spelling) get the same or more time than the people in Anchorage. That is not taking "balanced comment". The same number of people at each LIO doesn't

take into account size of each community. I cannot call in nor travel to another LIO to improve my chances of being heard.

2- If HB77 stifles public comment and the words "... not less than 30 days..." do not allow enough time for people to comment, how within 48 hours did so many people myself included learn about the bill and get to the LIO's to testify? Please note I took unpaid time off from work to go to the LIO today.

3-Since the State Government is charged with protecting the natural resources of Alaska's people it makes sense that only the State should hold water reservations. Please re read point #3 this time keeping in mind that I do not trust the government of Alaska, Anchorage of the Federal Government to have the best interests of my family and I in mind.

And by the way, I also depend on fish to live. I catch my personal use limit every year and try to get more fish on a sport license. I do not fish for fun or to sell my fish, I fish to eat. I do not believe that HB77 will damage my nor anyone else's ability to fish.

Respectfully,

Michael Jespersen

Anchorage AK 99507

From: Frank Bergstrom

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:23 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; 'Sen'; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

Honorable Senators:

Please accept these comments regarding HB77 per today's Senate Resources hearing. As an independent Alaska consultant specializing in permitting, regulatory affairs, and project management in the mining industry, the reforms listed in the current HB77 draft are greatly needed to facilitate a viable industry. Year after year permitting grows in length, cost, and scope (aka derail the permitting process are manifold, while the path to successful permit issuance has become increasingly convoluted and narrow – similar to a dirt road being converted by the forces of nature from a smooth running surface to a tangle of alder and salmon berry. Hard to see your way through and even harder to traverse.

Alaska was granted 101 million acres of land at statehood for the purpose of establishing an economy. Our permitting processes – always robust – have gravitated toward increasing ease of disruption and failure. The goal of our permitting process should be to advance the State's economy through good environmental and social stewardship of our land, air, water, and biological resources – not simple preservation. If we were only interested in preservation we would close down Fish Game because there would be no need to manage the resource. Since we do wish to manage, enhance, and maintain; i.e., conserve our resources, we need to write good permits and enforce them, not deny them.

Case in point is water use permits as noted in HB77. These are commonly requested by mining companies because there is no interest in establishing perpetual property rights, only the temporary use of the resource. Is this not a good thing? Mines only ask for the water for as long as it is needed. The idea is to take as little as one needs and leave no trace. Companies ask only to use land and water for as long as the mineral resour

General permits are long overdue for the relatively inconsequential, perfunctory, and low impact actions required to put Alaskan lands into economic use. That is, leases, rights-of-way, entry permits, etc. should be available within the timeframe of the small operator. Small operators do not have the luxury of deep pockets and infinite resources to gamble on projects several years out. Time value of money suggests no project several years out would likely pay. Alaskans need the ability to access their land in a time frame consistent with their ability to finance; i.e., less than one year. There is no environmental reason this cannot happen, and it would be greatly facilitated by the thoughtful availability of general permits.

Larger mining operations should not be at the mercy of advocacy groups bent on stopping economic activity on State land. Again, promotion of economic activity is why the State has the land in the first place. HB77 goes a long way to maintain meaningful Alaskan input to the permitting process while helping curtail disruptive efforts to derail and halt permit issuance. All my friends and neighbors in the dollars). Opportunities to

mining industry are Alaskans. For whom else would these lands be used? Derailing and halting permits is not active environmental stewardship, it is preservation through neglect.

Best regards, Frank Bergstrom

From: Francy Bennett
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:13 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Fw: I support HB77

Sen. Giessel,
I didn't have time to get to the LIO today, but here is the letter I sent to Sen. French in support of HB77.

Sen. Micciche,
Thank you for the work you did in making the bill more palatable to the fishermen and people who live near the water. I grew up in a number of villages on the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta and know how important fishing and hunting water animals is to livelihoods and subsistence lifestyles.

Sincerely,
Francy Bennett
Anchorage

On Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:52 PM, Francy Bennett wrote:

Dear Sen. French:
I support HB77 because it implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.
HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.
CSHB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.
Thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in CSHB77 help address the cause of the backlogs.
CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise.
CSHB77 diminishes the ability of ENGOs to abuse the system and stop projects.
This bill will help cut the red tape and put Alaskans back to work.

I urge you to support the bill.

Your constituent,
Francy Bennett
3619 Aldren Circle
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: "Phil St. George"

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:25:10 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: VOTE YES on HB77

Please support and vote yes on HB77. This is a good bill that does not exclude any public opinion and will help speed development. Alaska is losing investment dollars due to EPA's rhetoric on Pebble and Bristol Bay. Exploration dollars are already drying up and some good news that would make the permitting process speedier would be some good news for companies considering investing in Alaska. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Phil St. George

Eagle River

From: Ken Hughes

Date: March 12, 2014 at 10:18:14 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please pass HB77!

Dear legislators:

I understand that Wednesdays public hearing on HB77 was well attended by preservationists that undoubtedly used cell phones, computers, and the internet to assemble the demonstration of force they showed. Good thing there is mining to provide all those minerals that were necessary to manufacture those things! Ya know, if they really wanted to walk their talk they would use smoke signals!

The AMA's State Oversight Committee has reviewed the bill and is supportive of all provisions, which do encourage public input and make the processes we deal with in the mining industry more effective, efficient, and predictable. As the Nome Branch Chairman of the AMA I would like to emphasize the importance of mining to our local community, and how vital having an effective, efficient, and especially predictable permitting system is to the industry.

Pleas vote to pass HB77 as soon as possible!

Best Regards,

Ken Hughes
Nome Branch Chairman
Alaska Mining Association
Box 1430
Nome, AK 99762

From: Drew Miller

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:59:35 PM AKDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: VOTE YES ON HB77

As a 4th Generation Alaskan gold miner, I support HB77 and I encourage you to vote YES in support of HB77. As an active placer miner in interior Alaska and a member of the Alaska miners association, we have been following HB77 closely. I believe that HB77 provides improvements to the permitting process for development in Alaska. Having myself been involved recently in the state permitting process, I believe that the reforms presented in HB77 are needed, recently a permit that I submitted went unresponded to for 6 months, when a 30 day response was expected.

I also urge you to review support and non-support emails and letters, such as this, for content and not solely on quantity of responses. I believe that sometimes non support groups are more easily rallied into publicly voicing their option than supporters. I am writing to you tonight because I support HB77, and would like my voice to be heard. I hope that many others like myself will also take the time to make their voices heard.

Sincerely,

--

Drew Miller, PE

Taiga Mining Co.

From: Jason Morrison Personal
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77

I make a living with the waters of Alaska.

Please make sure and support HB77.

Thanks.

From: Larry Wilmarth
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:19 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Vote yes . A vote for more efficient gov't.

From: Deryl Box

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:40 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 Support

Dear Senators,

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

I support HB77 and ask that you support it.

Thank you for your time,

Deryl Box - Sales Manager - Fairbanks

Construction Machinery Industrial

Office: (907) 455-9600

From: Scott Spickler

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:44 AM

To: Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson;
Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Subject: HB 77

I would like to urge your support in passing HB 77 without further delay. This bill provides the best science based process and management by our Governmental agencies.

Thank you,

Scott Spickler

10754 Horizon Dr.

Juneau, AK. 99801

From: Alicia Amberg
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:56 AM
Subject: HB77 Support Letter

Senate Resources Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of HB77, an Act on Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights. In the past year or so, the State of Alaska has embarked on an initiative to improve permitting statewide, and I believe HB77 is a giant step towards accomplishing that objective, especially in times of budget cutbacks.

My family owns and operates a remote placer mine in the Interior of Alaska, and if HB77 does not pass, this can tie up the permitting process even worse than it already is—in turn, compromising our livelihood.

This bill will streamline the permitting process so family operations like ours can stay in business. HB77 contains many elements that are good for Alaska's economy while protecting our environment, including the unnecessarily controversial water rights aspect.

I urge you to pass this bill as written, and ensure our permitting process is transparent, predictable, and is truly what is best for Alaska. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Alicia Amberg
3140 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Daniel Siira
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:22 PM
Subject: HB77 Support Letter

March 13, 2014

Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Senate Resources Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of HB77, an Act on Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights.

In the past year, the State of Alaska has embarked on an initiative to improve permitting statewide, and I believe HB77 is a giant step towards accomplishing that objective.

I am a young, 5th generation Alaskan and my family has claims in Nome, which I hope to mine someday with my future family. If HB77 does not pass, this can tie up the permitting process even worse than it already is—in turn, compromising our livelihood. Small-scale family miners are motivated to keep our environment safe and clean, but the spirit and livelihood on which our state was built is breaking down due to the inefficiency of the permitting process.

This bill will streamline the permitting process so family operations can stay in business. HB77 contains many elements that are good for Alaska's economy while protecting our environment, including the unnecessarily controversial water rights aspect.

I urge you to pass this bill as written, and ensure our permitting process is transparent, predictable, and is truly what is best for Alaska. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Daniel Siira

3140 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:55 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: assistant@gci.net

Subject: HR 77

Dear Senator –

Opponents of HR 77 are blatantly disingenuous. The change will obviate unneeded red tape and the associated waste of public funds when dealing with large numbers of applications which, even collectively, are insignificant. The objective of the opponents is simply to shackle development irrespective of risk to habitat or the environment. As written the bill will not preclude responsible state agencies from judiciously evaluating applications using objective legal and scientific standards.

NR 77 is a worthy measure that will curtail government waste while not placing Alaska waters at risk

Please support this positive change in the law.

J P Tangen

From: Harpel, Janyce

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:48 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 - Permitting Reform Bill

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment. HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you,
Janyce Harpel
Project Coordinator
Administrative Manager

SRK Consulting (U.S.), Inc.

Suite E-12, 4700 Business Park Blvd, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503, USA

Tel: +1-907-677-3520; Fax: +1-907-677-3620

www.srk.com

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P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Pat and Janet Smith
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 - Please Vote Yes

Senator Giessel,

I am a geologist and have had the pleasure to explore for minerals in Alaska for over 20 of my 35 year career. I lived in Anchorage and managed the exploration office of Kennecott Exploration from 1997 through 2001. I am currently president of Heatherdale Resources and we are advancing the Niblack Project on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska.

HB77 will implement changes that will provide certain response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

I believe that HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Pat
Pat Smith
5106 East Glennaire Dr
Spokane, WA 99223
USA

From: LaDonna Fryar
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:20 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Vote yes HB 77

Vote yes on HB77. As a small
Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.
Sincerely,
LaDonna Fryar, Member,
FGMGV LLC

You may reach me for comment at any time through our national direct line number:
(Dr Brett Fryar, COO)
Or through my email. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Clifford Trull

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:59 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: VOTE YES HB 77

Vote yes on HB77.

As a small Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifford Trull, Member,
FGMGV LLC

From: Kevin Gray

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:22 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 - Support and Yes Vote

Hello Senators:

Thank you for your hearings on HB77 – it is important that the Senate Resources Committee find out the facts relating to this pending legislation. As someone who is intimately involved in the mining industry in Alaska, it is extremely important to consider some of the same barriers to investment in our state that the oil & gas industry also faces, namely: a fair and rigorous permitting process and a stable tax regime. HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty as well as a timely response to Alaskans that wish to obtain permits, while maintaining a fair and rigorous permitting process under an efficiently run state agency.

HB77 strives to streamline (to the extent that it should) minor project permitting through the issuance of general permits where practical. HB77 also provides for appropriate public notice, and provides the opportunity for public input on any general permit. These general permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permitting under existing statutes and are not unprecedented – both Federal and State agencies currently utilize general permits already.

HB77 also brings accountability to the permitting and appeals process, in that appeals can only be brought by those directly and negatively impacted by a decision. This ensures that appeals can be brought only by a directly affected stakeholder, rather than a special interest (often outside Alaska) attempting to block any and all permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: our State of Alaska resource agencies with solid scientific backgrounds and Alaskan experience.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote Yes on HB77.

Best Regards,
Kevin Gray
Chief Financial Officer

Alaska Earth Sciences
11401 Olive Lane
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Tim Musgrove

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:23 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough

Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Support for HB77

Importance: High

Dear Alaska Legislator's,

I, Tim Musgrove a year round resident and recreational miner of Soldotna, Alaska ask you to support and pass the new version of HB77. There is a lot of opposition to this bill by groups that protest any development projects in Alaska, but this bill needs to be passed. The State of Alaska needs to continue to move forward on building a smoother permitting system for all projects in the state. In reality the passage of HB77 is important to all of Alaskans that have read and understand it. In closing I stand in support of the passage of HB77, please let my voice be heard.

Sincerely,

Tim Musgrove

From: Gary Vivian

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:25:39 AM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77

Reply-To: <gary.vivian@aurorageosciences.com>

Dear Senators; Please accept this correspondence to provide full support for Bill HB77. I strongly urge a "YES" vote.

Respectfully,

--

Gary Vivian, M.Sc., P.Geol.

President

Aurora Geosciences Ltd

3506 McDonald Drive

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2H1

-----Original Message-----

From: MARLEANNA HALL

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:01 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Support of CS HB 77

Good morning Senator Giessel:

Thank you for your consideration of my comments in support of Senate Resources passing CS HB 77. As a lifelong Alaskan, I support economic opportunities across the state. I am lucky to have a job I truly enjoy and hope the same for my son when he goes to work in our great state.

Alaskan projects see more and more opposition from Outside, and misuse of our responsible permitting process and state regulations. I believe CS HB 77 will reduce the ability of ENGOs to abuse the system and stop projects.

I also believe the bill will provide certainty in the permitting process.

Our permitting and regulatory process is one of the best in the world and this bill will help make it more efficient. We can and will do it right in Alaska, and putting Alaskans to work is a benefit of this bill.

Again, I urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass CS HB 77 and thank you for your support of this bill.

Thank you,
Marleanna Hall
15610 Kings Way Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Curt Dufendach
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:07 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

I support HB77
Please vote yes
Thanks

Curt Dufendach
Delta Industrial Services
PO box 1109
Delta Jct. Ak.
99737

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Danger

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:03 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Vote

Yes on HB 77

Nicholas Danger

From: John Shively

Date: March 13, 2014 at 4:41:17 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77

Dear Sen. Giessel:

I support the revised version of HB 77. People in government often talk about improving the regulatory process, but it seems only to get more difficult. HB 77 is an opportunity to improve the state's regulatory system. I hope you will support it.

John

John Shively
Chairman

From: Ken Bauer
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:22 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Sincerely
Ken Bauer
Operations & Sales Manager
Spill Shield Inc.

From: Pat Belec

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:25 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 - DNR Permitting

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

I am and have been an Alaskan for thirty years. Here in Juneau we enjoy hundreds of highly paid miners working at Greens Creek and Kensington. We like the mining industry and encourage further development of this well regulated and bountiful industry in our region and across the State. HB77 is an effort to improve the State of Alaska permitting system, optimize State agency resources, and help ensure timely processing of permit requests. I can see no short cuts or corner cutting via issuance of general permits or suggested reform of water reservations. Clearly, any person may file for a reservation and it will be processed without bias and retain appropriate seniority. A complete application would be required, including adequate stream flow data. All these are commonsense, workman like, and effective means to help improve permit processing efficiency, while maintaining free, open, and meaningful public involvement. Congratulations on producing good legislation. Please proceed to pass this important legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Patricia Belec

PO Box 22909

Juneau, AK 99802

From: Rob Retherford

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:37 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough;
Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Fred Dyson

Subject: HB 77

Below are points that I agree with and support as a citizen of Alaska and as a small business owner in Alaska since 1985:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you for your time and effort to insure Alaskans maintain a strong economy while developing our resources wisely!

Rob Retherford

Robert M. Retherford

President

Alaska Earth Sciences

11401 Olive Lane

Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Delbert Parr
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:47 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Yes Vote on HB77

Dear Senator Giessel:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial. Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward. HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. It is critical that our water resources not be managed by outside interests solely for the purpose of stopping future development.

Respectfully,

Delbert Parr
2267 Franklin Street
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Brett Fryar

Date: March 13, 2014 at 12:55:39 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Hb77

Vote yes on HB77. As a small

Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brett Fryar, Member, COO,

FGMGV LLC

From: Larios, Frank

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject:

Importance: High

I SUPPORT and ASK FOR A YES VOTE on HB77!!!

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise!!!

From: Ralph Hamm

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: i support HB77 please vote for it. ralph hamm

From: Lance Roberts <roberts.lance@gmail.com>

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:41:18 AM AKDT

To: Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, Fred Dyson <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, Anna Fairclough <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, Hollis French <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77 General Permitting

Reply-To: <Roberts.Lance@gmail.com>

To the Senate Resources committee:

Please support HB77, Permitting Reform. General permitting is a very common sense way to speed up our incredibly onerous process. It will not only help those seeking permits, but enable us to do more permitting with less funding.

Thanks,

Lance Roberts

Fairbanks, AK

From: "Jeffress, Bill"

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:50:19 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel,

As you are aware, the State of Alaska has been systematically improving the permitting process to better serve the citizens and provide opportunities for economic development. It is a shame that we have a very vocal minority bent on impeding or completely stopping all opportunities for economic development in Alaska. HB 77 is simply the legislation needed to clearly establish how certain aspects of resource development and resource users move forward in the permitting or approval process. This legislation sets the side bars for the applicant and sets reasonable standards for appeals to minimize the ever increasing number of frivolous anti-anything challenges to development and the permitting process.

If those opposing passage of HB 77 ever went through the present permitting process, they would appreciate the efforts made by the Administration to implement changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. It would be an interesting exercise to ask those testifying against HB 77 if in fact they have actually read the bill or have just bought into the anti-development NGO rhetoric.

Please continue to be a leader and vote for what is best for Alaska and not be swayed by the vocal minority that are bent on moving Alaska backward rather than establishing a sustainable economy.

Best Regards,

Bill Jeffress

2031 Brandilyn Street

Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: Bill Carmichael
Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:21:39 PM AKDT
To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB77
Senator Giessel,

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Bill Carmichael

Fix the problem not the blame

From: Donald Stevens

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:50:29 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Your Support of HB77 is Crucial for the future of the mining industry in Alaska

Senator: I am a minerals exploration geologist with over 43 years of full time exploration experience here in Alaska.

HB77 includes changes that will provide certainty to Alaskans and industries that obtain permits and will allow state agencies to be more efficient, which is desperately needed during these times of financial stress. One of the key words related to HB77 is certainty. The mining industry must have certainty related to the permitting processes and its ability to develop and operate a mine. No rational organization is going to invest millions of dollars in a mining property if there is no certainty that the development and mining can proceed under a rational permitting system.

The preemptive veto soon to be issued by the EPA regarding the Pebble Prospect, before any mine permit applications have been filed by the mining company, has already damaged Alaska's reputation as a mining-friendly jurisdiction. We need your support of HB77 to show the global mining industry that Alaska and most Alaskans do support the industry and understand its need for certainty.

If HB77 fails to pass, it will result in Alaska's water resources being managed by those who are anti-development and seek only to stop or hinder projects. The statistics on non-agency instream flow applications prove this assertion.

Our great state will no longer be sustainable once most development projects are blocked.

Don

Donald L. Stevens Ph. D., CPG
Stevens Exploration Management Corp.
1048 W. Int'l. Airport Road, Suite 103
Anchorage, AK 99518

From: John Lamborn
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB-77

Senator Giessel,

It sounds like the anti's didn't have to work today. Maybe they don't have jobs. I was at mine and missed the hearing on HB-77. I just want to send in my letter of support for all the work that has been done on this bill and support the bill. Please vote for it.

Sincerely,

John C. Lamborn
Project Manager,
Cruz Construction

From: Jim Duffield <duff_cpa@hotmail.com>

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:52:10 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77 vote Yes!!

Please vote yes on HB 77, I support it and want you too.

Sent from my iPhone

Jim Duffield



Testimony
CSHB 77- Land Disposals/Exchanges: Water Rights
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Good afternoon Madam Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Rachael Petro and I am the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. The Alaska Chamber is a statewide membership organization made up of all sizes and types of businesses from across Alaska.

The Alaska Chamber's primary mission is to advocate for policies that improve Alaska's business climate. The Alaska Chamber is the most diverse statewide pro-business organization. With that come serious challenges... not unlike those you face among your colleagues here in this committee and in the Legislature. When the diverse membership of the Alaska Chamber agree on an issue – it's a little bit amazing. One thing Alaska Chamber members do agree on is that efficient, predictable and common sense regulations and permitting processes are integral to creating an environment in which businesses, new and old, can succeed.

Alaska Chamber members continue to support Alaska's world class environmental standards which guide development of Alaska's natural resources. We also support streamlining those regulations and policies where bureaucratic and business efficiencies can be gained.

The Alaska Chamber supports the provisions within CSHB 77 because they provide clarity, eliminate unnecessary processes, and modernize statutes based on the experience gained over many years from the professional staff within the Department of Natural Resources.

It is our belief that the changes to HB 77 provide additional clarity while still making common sense improvements to DNR's permitting process. The CS to HB 77 is a satisfactory compromise that we believe should receive broad bipartisan support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

From: Anna Atchison

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:05 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Support for CSHB 77

The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Chair

Senator Fred Dyson

Senator Peter Micciche

Senator Click Bishop

Senator Lesil McGuire

Senator Anna Fairclough

Senator Hollis French

Senate Resources Committee

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

RE: CSHB 77

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to express support of CSHB 77 as it is heard in committee this week.

Alaska needs to remain open for business and I support the state's efforts to keep that open sign polished and visible. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone extensive review to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

And, thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in CSHB77 help address the cause of the backlogs. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise. The bill improves efficiencies in the issuance of General Permits, diminishes the chronic backlog in permitting, results in cost savings to the state, while protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial. HB77 also provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically.

Lastly, HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

In closing, HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. This is something I believe all Alaskans can agree is best for our state!

Thank you for all you do for our great state,

Anna

Anna Atchison

Fairbanks

From: Steve Bills
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:09 AM
To: Steve Bills
Subject: HB77

I am in hopes you will support HB77 as I believe calls for changes that will responsibly provide a timely response to Alaskans when obtaining permits while still maintaining plenty of time for input for the public. It also requires appeals only to people directly impacted which I believe brings accountability to the process. HB77 will make the permitting process much more efficient, predictable, and timely if implemented. For these reasons I would hope you would join me in support of this bill.

Thanks

Steve Bills
General Manager
TonaTec Exploration

From: corrie krezel
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: support 4 hb77

Dear Honorable Senator, Please vote yes on hb77, it's good for ALASKANS. The propaganda against it is typically untrue. Best regards, Stan Krezel, Wasilla

From: Powelson, Randal
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:26 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I support HB-77

Senator Giessel

I have read HB-77 and support this measure. I am a professional Mining Engineer with over 20 years mining industry experience, including major mine permitting.

HB-77 brings much needed clarity to Alaska Natural Resource development.

The bill allows the State of Alaska the same ability to manage Alaska Public Lands that the US Secretary of Interior is now vested with.

Alaska's economy is currently in a death spiral.... Yes, a death spiral for Alaska's future.

Could the Alaska pipeline be built today? No, We can't even get the gas line off the ground.

At the end of the day... SOMEONE MUST PAY THE BILLS!

The current system of endless environmental appeals and obstruction is killing the state.

It often takes COURAGE to do the "Right Thing". Do the "Right Thing" and support HB-77.

Thank you.

Randy Powelson
CAT Mining Equipment Rep
NC Machinery Fairbanks, AK

From: GUSTAVO AZPILCUETA

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:18 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: deantha@alaskaminers.org; alma@memberclicks-mail.net

Subject: SUPPORT and ASK FOR A YES VOTE on HB77

Senate Resources Committee:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Regards

Jorge G Azpilcueta