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From: Connelly, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing in support of CSHB77. ENGOs are abusing the current system and using it solely to stop projects. Of the applications received by other than government agencies, 85% were from groups opposed to a development project. Decisions about these projects should be made by Alaskans through their government and not by groups or individuals.

CSHB77 solves this problem with the current in stream flow permitting system with minimal changes. It does not affect public notice or any other part of the process. It ensures that water resources will be managed by State agency personnel with science based expertise.

I support this bill and ask that you also do so.

Regards,

Steve Connelly

11860 Nebesna Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Kati
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:40 PM
Subject: Support for HB 77

Dear Senator,

See my prepared written testimony I was hoping to have a chance to give yesterday during the public hearing. I plan to try again tomorrow.

I understand you're busy and may not have the time to read the testimony- the bottom line is that I am in support of HB 77.

Thank you,

Kati Capozzi
Eagle River, Alaska

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Good afternoon Chairman Giessel, vice-chair Dyson, and members of the Senate Resources Committee, for the record my name is Kati Capozzi and I'm testifying today on behalf of myself.

I am in support of CS HB77. The well thought out changes introduced to HB77 earlier this week sufficiently address the concerns that have been voiced while still achieving the original intent of the bill- to implement a more efficient permitting process.

As an Alaskan who cares about protecting the environment that I call home, and also understanding that I would not live here without natural resource development, I am pleased that this bill has struck a balance that protects Alaskans interests and helps us get to work.

Thank you for your due diligence on this bill and for your service to the state.

From: On Behalf Of Matthew Fagnani

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:59 PM

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

Subject: HB77

March 3, 2014

Dear Senate Resource Committee members:

First of all thank you for taking up HB 77. Throughout my career, I have been a pro-resource supporter. I usually take issues like these and ask myself the question that Governor Knowles used to ask "is Alaska open for business". If your answer is yes, then I appreciate you taking up this bill for debate. For me, I have always felt that the permitting process we have in place is long and drawn out. It is discouraging. Alaska as a resource producing State should have streamlined permitting process's rather than a permitting procedures that is cumbersome, drawn out, and discourages rather than encourage exploration and development.

HB 77 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.

I like the fact that 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.

Furthermore, HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise. Eliminating the feeling and emotions of a project and relying on scientifically based reasoning.

It is common knowledge that NGOs abuse the system and for the sole purpose of killing projects. HB 77 diminishes their ability, to me that is good news. I am also a big proponent of legislation that reduces the red tape and put Alaskans back to work.

I commend you for taking up HB 77, so let's work together to pass this legislation out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. Doing so shows that Alaska is open for business.

Respectfully submitted:

Matthew Fagnani
2559 Loussac Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: Jennifer Dawn

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:54 PM

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

Subject: HB77, the Permitting Reform bill

Dear Senators,

Please take some time to read my email.

I am an employee at the Department of Natural Resources, working as a state regulator. I will be involved in a large permitting project in the near future and strongly believe in the Department and the Division of Mining Land and Water's ability to make valid and best interest permitting decisions for the state's natural resources.

I am also a member of the Alaska Miner's Association and agree with many of the points they are making in regard to this 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 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.

In my job I deal daily with a great deal of money and time spent on replies that are deliberately placed by non-governmental agencies to distract and delay from the regulated permitting process. This accountability to the appeals process may be one way to help curb some of this unnecessary "work" being done by state professional employees, such as geologist, hydrologists and engineers whose time is better spend analyzing science, rather than making copies of permit documents or responding to the same non-scientific questions multiple times.

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.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keese

From: Howard Grey

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:02 PM

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

Subject: HB-77

To: Senate Resources Committee

Subject: HB-77

First of all I would like to say I strongly support the version of HB-77 now before the Senate Resources committee.

The proposed legislations purpose is mainly housekeeping to streamline existing permitting systems and make them more efficient, timely and hopefully cost efficient.

In particular I have followed that portion of HB-77 dealing with water use and reservations. To start with Alaska's original Water Use Act and regulatory framework is probably the best in the nation. Because of our late entry into the Union we were able to draw upon the experience of other western states to craft a document that fairly addresses the needs of all Alaskan's and emphasizes appropriation based on actual use. The Act provides for industrial, agricultural, community and a variety of individual uses. It is not just important it is vital that the Water Use Act and any future revisions or changes maintain these same attributes if Alaska is to continue to grow and prosper.

There are always individuals or groups, often well meaning, that will attempt to use or abuse the system for a particular purpose sometimes without first considering the negative impacts of their actions. One such attempt has been the wholesale filing for large water reservations in a number of locations. HB-77 in part addresses this concern and provides Alaska State Agencies the latitude to maintain the integrity of the original Act. Allowing any kind of large scale drainage area reservations could be a disaster for future growth of our state.

I would suggest that we continue to depend on the expertise of our State's water use professionals and make sure they have the latitude to perform their duties. I believe that HB-77 will help accomplish this. For the record I was involved with the Alaska water use program almost from its onset. At that time I worked for the Department of Natural Resources. I continue to be concerned about water and other resources since these contributed to statehood and continue to be paramount for our future.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and ask that you contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Howard J. Grey

Regards,

From: Morrison, Jason
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Ms. Giessel,
Please provide support for HB77.

It is not in the best interest of out of state persons to drive the ability of Alaska when it comes to development.

Section 1 of the bill makes it very clear that there is a requirement for public notice and it provides input for any general permit.

I have been involved in the permitting of many mines in Alaska and the continual appeal process usually results in holding up a project for sometimes years.

The money spent to defend our projects negatively impacts the costs and often times we are forced to stop pursuing development as legal costs have chewed up much of our monies.

Is it not similar to the development of ANWR? Outside interests drive whether or not we can practically produce oil without hurting the environment.

What a boon to our revenue coffers it would be if we could start work there.

My business is no different, our projects spend millions of dollars to develop revenue generation.,

Please don't let the special interests from outside Alaska interfere with what is right for the persons of Alaska.

Kindest Regards.

Jason Morrison
Area Manager
J.S. Redpath Corporation

From: Maynard Tapp

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:46 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Please Vote Yes on HB-77 as presented - it does allow for public comment despite testimony to the contrary.

Senator Giessel,

Please Vote Yes on HB-77 as presented - it does allow for public comment despite testimony to the contrary.

Regards,

Maynard

| Maynard V. Tapp | HAWK CONSULTANTS LLC

From: Tabs Unlimited
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:03 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 support

I would like to let you know that, as a life-long Alaskan, I fully support HB77 and believe that this bill 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.

Best regards,

Scarlett Adam
3220 Nowell Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801

From: cory bodyfelt
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:56 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of HB77

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the senate resources committee,

I am a commercial fisherman and I am writing to express support of HB 77 as it is heard in committee this week.

Alaska has a solid permitting process that protects the environment while being efficient and manageable. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by the appropriate people, experts in their field and results in cost savings to the state while protecting the environment. HB77 allows issuance of general permits so that minor projects can be permitted, established and completed without breaking the bank of a small business or the state. HB77 brings accountability to the appeals process, only allowing those directly impacted by the decision.

HB77 ensures that the science based expertise of our wonderful state are managing Alaska's water resources.

Thanks for your consideration,

Cory Bodyfelt- Commercial fisherman and supporter of HB77



ANCHORAGE SAND and GRAVEL CO., INC.

1040 O'Malley Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99515 • (907) 349-3333 • FAX (907) 344-2844 • www.anchsand.com

04/13/2014

Dear Senator Giessel,

Anchorage Sand and Gravel, an Anchorage based building materials supply company, would like to voice our support for HB 77. AS&G has been doing business in Alaska since 1938 and has been providing many good paying jobs over all those years. AS&G relies heavily on natural resources, to make the basic building materials needed to construct all of the things that we all take for granted every day, like roads, schools, housing, airports and hospitals. Without these natural resources none of these things mentioned could be built.

Companies like AS&G, need a fair and balanced approach when it comes to the permitting process. When permitting a natural resource site, millions of dollars and resources are committed to a project, and the company doing the work, need to have a predictable and reliable process. Companies need to be held accountable to make sure they operate in a responsible manner, to protect the environment, the health of their employees, and the safety of the public. They also need a permitting process that is fair and reasonable, and this is why AS&G is in support of 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.





ANCHORAGE SAND and GRAVEL CO., INC.


1040 O'Malley Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99515 • (907) 349-3333 • FAX (907) 344-2844 • www.anchsand.com

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.

Please yes vote on HB77.

Sincerely,



Wes VanderMartin
Vice President/General Manager
Anchorage Sand & Gravel, Inc.



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

From: Rene Azzara

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:21 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: HB77

Please SUPPORT and vote YES on HB77.

Thank you,

René Edelman Azzara

Box 3112

Soldotna, Alaska

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

From: Allen Hippler

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:20 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: hb 77

Dear Senator,

Thank you for considering HB 77. It is important to pass this, to improve our regulatory process.

I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Allen Hippler

CFO

Faulkner Walsh Constructors

Rivercity Development, LLC

Top Fuel Co, LLC

Suite 881, LLC

From: Peter Macksey

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:13 PM

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

Subject: HB 77

Hi folks.

As you ponder the bill in front of you, listening to testimony, do you pause and think of the reasons that make you address this and any of the problems that come before you. Alaska was given state hood as a resource development state to be able to support and provide a livelihood for its citizens. Any and all development is being opposed in this state, yet somehow people need everything, schools, heat, water and sewer, grocery's and money in their pocket.

I am pro-development, pro-job and proud to be part of the people that have tamed the last frontier. We have not done this by destroying the neighborhood as you would be led to believe. We continue to be good stewards.

All this leads up to that I support HB-77. Ask during testimony, what is the background of person testifying, ask if they live in the area, ask if they are a productive Alaskan citizen. Ask if they are hobbling development here or in general are against all development.

I support HB-77

I thank you for your time, I hope you are not swayed either way but look at the realities facing this state and make decisions based on that.

Ps, I want a road to NOME as well.

Peter Macksey

Estimator/Sales

STEELFAB

2132 Railroad ave.

Anchorage 99501

From: Bernie Hart
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SUPPORT

YES VOTE ON HB77

Thank You,

Bernie
Stores Assistant/Travel Coordinator
Soloy Helicopters, LLC

From: Larry Cooper
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:41 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I personally stand strongly in favor of the passage of HB 77.

The public holds the rights to public resources. Alaska government agencies represent all the people, not just one sector. They should hold private rights used by all of us (i.e., rights to fish habitat). The amended HB 77 allows members of the public to apply for in stream flow reservations, but if granted the reservation is held publicly. This eliminates the problem of having to ask a well- funded anti-development group whether Alaska can develop our resources, or whether Alaska can change the methods to protect fish we all value.

Please do not bow to pressure from those groups or individuals who either do not truly understand the law or are simply blindly against responsible development of any kind.

Sincerely,
Larry

Larry J. Cooper
Vice President
Commercial Loan Unit Manager
Northrim Bank
3111 C Street, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99524
Direct 907-261-8771
Cell 907-250-7530

www.northrim.com
www.alaskanomics.com

From:

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:39 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: RE: Education Series Part 2 Investment - Senator Cathy Giessel's Newsletter

Senator Giessel,

Thanks for your great work, including your outstanding newsletter.

I fully support HB 77 and the work that went into improving the language from last year to mitigate various concerns . I did call your office and spoke to staff on this subject.

The reduction in permits will continue to help the State in driving down unemployment rates and providing opportunities for meaningful careers for Alaskans.

Thank you. TOM, SUSAN and SAM MALONEY 3215 Legacy Drive Anchorage Alaska 99516

From: C.R.Dick Hammond

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:31 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche

Subject: HB-77

Dear Senators,

I am writing to give my support for the passage of HB-77.

As a small family placer miner we have seen the permitting process become increasing cumbersome, to the point of absurdity.

HB-77 will help to alleviate some of the redundancy.

Please support this Bill.

Sincerely,

Charles Hammond

Chicken, AK

From: Wally McGregor

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:02 PM

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

Subject: HB77

To Members of the Alaska state legislature:

I am a long term property owner in Alaska. Had it not been for the passage of ANILA in 1980 that enclosed my properties in the WRST National Park denying me the right to mine the deposits, I would be a long term Alaskan resident making a major contribution to the State's economy.

Regarding HB77, I view the bill as one that will implement changes providing greater certainty and timely response to Alaskans seeking to obtain permits, crucial to the future of Alaska.

I understand that DNR is making positive progress on reducing the backlog of permit applications due to special appropriations by the Legislature. All well and good, however, HB77 will help to address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

Wallace McGregor

Northwest Explorations Joint Venture
1212 N. Washington St. Ste 132
Spokane, WA 99201

Senate Resources Committee on CSHB 77
March 12, 2014
Testimony of Rick Rogers, Executive Director,
Resource Development Council

Good afternoon. My name is Rick Rogers, Executive Director of the Resource Development Council. RDC is a statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

Responsible resource development includes protecting fish habitat, and the revisions to the water reservation section of this bill do that, while also addressing recent practice of eNGOs to game the system to block responsible resource development.

The status quo on water reservations is bad public policy. In the 1990s, Greenpeace attempted to frustrate oil development near the Kaparuk River by seeking a water reservation. Fortunately in that case the facts did not support their claim as the waters used in development were not connected to the Kaparuk River. However the flawed law that allowed that attempt to cut off Alaska's life blood is still on the books.

We believe the CSHB77 adequately addresses this issue by allowing persons to apply for water reservations and vesting a certification with a State agency. If the concern is really about protecting resources, formerly opposed parties to this bill should now be satisfied. If, however, the desire for some is about keeping the status quo as another blunt legal instrument to shut down resource development, then they will likely remain dissatisfied with the amendments.

Much in this bill is about helping smaller businesses and Alaskans, and making DNR more efficient. With budget deficits, can we really afford having DNR adjudicate every individual mooring buoy when a General Permit can serve the public interest? The amendments to the General Permit language are appropriate to limit their scope.

Systemic improvements to what has become a very complex set of statutes authorizing DNR's work are needed to help prevent future backlog and delays, and CSHB77 is a significant step in that direction.

We encourage this committee to pass this new CSHB77.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: Jim Halloran

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:38 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: HB 77

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, I am

Jim Halloran

From: Amanda Shaw

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:54 PM

Subject: Vote YES on HB77

I support and ask for a YES vote on HB77.

Respectfully,

Amanda Shaw

From: Carl Portman

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:59 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Support HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to urge your support of CSHB 77 and encourage the committee to pass the bill. HB 77 improves the process of issuing General Permits and efficiently addresses the severe backlog in permitting.

Under the committee substitute, individuals, tribes, and others will continue to be able to apply for water reservations, but the certificate will be issued to an appropriate state agency, ensuring public resources are managed by public agencies with scientific expertise. This is important because for large projects that are multiple years in the planning, the decision on how to withdraw water, protect the fish, and promote economic development should be made with all the data, and with an understanding of all the environmental and social effects.

Passage of HB 77 will increase the efficiency of our land and water use authorizations, while maintaining Alaska's high environmental standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I appreciate your public service.

Carl Portman

Anchorage Alaska

Testimony of Carl Portman
On CS HB 77
Senate Resources Committee
March 12, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Carl Portman and I am speaking on my own behalf. I support the committee substitute for HB 77 and encourage the committee to pass the bill.

HB 77 improves the process of issuing General Permits and efficiently addresses the severe backlog in permitting.

Under the committee substitute, individuals, tribes, and others will continue to be able to apply for water reservations, but the certificate will be issued to an appropriate state agency, ensuring public resources are managed by public agencies with scientific expertise.

This is important because for large projects that are multiple years in the planning, the decision on how to withdraw water, protect the fish, and promote economic development should be made with all the data, and with an understanding of all the environmental and social effects.

Passage of HB 77 will increase the efficiency of our land and water use authorizations, while maintaining Alaska's high environmental standards.

Thank you.

From: Michael Ferris

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:09 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Subject: Support of HB 77

I wanted to make sure my support of HB 77 was on the record. So much of the state is Federally or State owned and anytime someone wants to start a project in Alaska, outside eNGOs can step in and abuse the system and stop projects. I would like to see more projects moving forward in Alaska and seeing more Alaskan be able to work on developing Alaskan Resources.

Please help move HB 77 forward and VOTE YES.

Sincerely

Michael Ferris

Michael S. Ferris

Xerox Sales Agent

Alaska Enterprise Solutions, Inc.

Xerox Authorized Sales Agent

557 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite A

Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Lorali Simon
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:54 PM
Subject: Support for 2nd S CS CS HB77(RES)

Dear Senator,

Yesterday I went to the LIO to testify in support of HB77, however, time ran out before it was my turn.

I must say, most of the testimony yesterday was not based on fact, but rather on irrational misrepresentations of what is, or is not, in the bill. It was clear that nearly every person who testified yesterday had not read the bill; did not understand the current Alaska Water Use Act, nor changes proposed in the CS. This version of HB77 does not take away the public's right to participate; it does not infringe upon subsistence activity or human rights; it will not cause cancer; nor does it create an avenue to destroy fish habitat.

All development projects in the state of Alaska have to go through a rigorous permitting process – which is a public process that incorporates public input throughout the process. There are opportunities throughout the permitting stage for groups, individuals, tribes, and other organizations to engage in public comment periods. HB77 does not change that. The reason HB77 has become so popular with anti-development activists is because they have found a way to use the current water use system to impede development projects.

HB 77 encourages responsible development of State land and water resources and it's passage is necessary to stop abuse of the permitting process.

Thank you for taking the time over the past year to improve HB77.

Sincerely,
Lorali Simon

Lorali M. Simon
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Vice President, External Affairs
(907) 745-6028 office
(907) 745-6083 fax
634 S. Bailey St. #204, Palmer, AK 99645

From: Benson, Brian

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:05 PM

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

Subject: HB77

Honorable Senators on Alaska's Senate Resources Committee:

I wanted to write and let you know that I support and believe that the passage of this bill is critical to Alaska's future. Permitting of resource development projects must be expedited without putting Alaskans public involvement at risk-I believe this bill will do that. To put the interests of any "special interest" groups above those of Alaskan's directly affected is unconscionable; especially since one way or another, only Alaskans will be directly affected. And although I certainly can't agree that all federal permitting rules apply all of the time, allowing general permits for smaller projects seems to work and still protect the rights of all interested parties under the law as it stands at that time.

I can't be convinced that further obfuscation of the issues and delays of Alaskan development will have any benefit to anyone outside of the lawyers that build the suits to tie up projects in our courts for years and the leadership of the special interests that (I feel) have lost their path to save the environment in favor of making money and prestige among their followers.

I have been in the state since 1955, and am very opposed to wholesale, unregulated development, and wanton destruction of this beautiful state; but to tie up and deny growth and jobs to our children on half-truths and speculation is very close to sinful. The state of the art in science and advancements in engineering give me confidence that we can go ahead with development if projects get to a point where they present a plan and pass both reasonable public scrutiny and a practical permitting process.

Please vote YES on HB77.

Best Regards,

Brian Benson

Alaska Sales Manager, Air Liquide America L. P.
6510 Arctic Spur Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518 U.S.A.

Thursday, March 13, 2014
RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also 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 group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Francy Bennett
3619 Aldren Circle
Anchorage AK 99517

From: Steve Denton

Date: March 13, 2014 at 5:51:31 PM 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: HB 77 Permitting Reform Bill

Dear Senator,

This message is sent to urge you to support and pass the Permitting Reform Bill, HB77 out of the Senate Resources Committee and support full passage by the Alaska Legislature as soon as possible.

During my nearly 40 year career in Alaska's resource industries, including mining, fishing, logging and petroleum, I have lead or had significant participation in a broad range of permitting actions ranging from relatively simple permits for individuals to fill tidelands for a boat dock to the very complex permitting process for a new coal mine. I have participated as an industry representative on a task force charged with assisting in development of the comprehensive coal mining regulatory program. I believe I am well qualified to comment on the function or dysfunction of Alaska's permitting programs.

The 2013 Fraser Institute "Survey of Mining Companies" ranks Alaska as 87th out of 112 jurisdictions in the category of "uncertainty concerning environmental regulations". This means that only 22% of the jurisdictions have worse records for environmental permitting. In my career, I have seen Alaska evolve from environmental and reclamation standards for a coal mine that were contained in 2 paragraphs in a coal lease to the comprehensive program we have today that leaves no significant question regarding environmental protection unanswered before a permit is issued. This transformation has been difficult for sure and at times expensive, but for the most part has yielded positive results for the environment and a system within which a vibrant coal industry could develop.

However, the rise of environmental activists into a well-funded and organized industry has taken environmental protection down a dark path that does little to protect the environment. Our comprehensive environmental regulatory programs have done an excellent job of protecting Alaska's environment for several decades. The primary effect of the environmental activists efforts has been to progressively and effectively frustrate the efforts of our regulatory agencies to rationally manage Alaska's resources. Permits that should be a simple matter and take a few days or weeks in most jurisdictions are being drug into weeks, months or years long ordeals. My observation, at least partially confirmed by the Fraser survey, is that Alaska is on a trajectory to becoming the worst jurisdiction on the planet for permitting a resource development project, which trumps all of our other positive aspects like great resource potential. I do not believe that is a future any real Alaskan can support.

HB77 is a good first step to taking back control of Alaska's management of its natural resources, which is currently largely in the hands of committed outside influences that care little about the welfare of Alaska's citizens. HB77 will do nothing to lessen the opportunities of citizens to influence the outcome of major permitting and resource disposal actions or degrade the quality of our environmental protection. Providing a streamlined process for permitting routine actions is sorely needed and will send a positive message to those who might be interested in investing in Alaska that we are serious about taking back control of the management of our resources. I urge you to vigorously support Alaska by supporting passage of HB77.

Sincerely Yours,
Steve Denton

PO Box 149
Healy, Alaska 99743

PAUL S. GLAVINOVICH
MINERALS CONSULTANT

P.O. Box 112816
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

Telephone
(907) 345-3646

March 12, 2014

TESTIMONY OF PAUL S. GLAVINOVICH BEFORE ALASKA STATE SENATE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL, CHAIR

RE: CSHB77H

Senator Giessel, members of the Senate Resources Committee

My name is Paul S. Glavinovich. I am Professional Geologist and have in excess of forty years of experience in the mining industry, the majority of it in Alaska. I have been directly involved in the development, permitting and operating of two of Alaska's major operating mines.

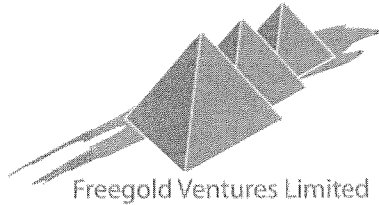
I am here today to express my support for the Committee Substitute for HB 77. The legislation is a direct result of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources effort to improve and modernize Alaska's permitting system and will result in the processing of permit applications and other resource management protocols on a more timely basis with greater efficiency and lower costs to both the state and the permit applicant.

The Fraser Institute, a globally recognized independent research and education organization, recently ranked 112 jurisdictions throughout the world. The individual jurisdictions were ranked into three categories of decreasing importance to resource investment.

Alaska ranked a poor twenty-second under the Policy Perception Index, perhaps the most critical, but ranked first against the Mineral Potential Index for geologic potential and was listed as fifth under the Investment Attractiveness index. Possibly more compelling however, was a question asked for the first time this year about whether public opposition to mining was affecting the permitting and/or approval process for any projects with which their companies were directly involved. Thirty six percent of the 690 respondents confirmed that public opposition was affecting the permitting and/or approval process. The majority of the complaints focused on "environmental or water usage (59.2%)".

The CSHB77/H attempts to resolve many of these same issues by providing a disciplined protocol for both the permit applicant and the public and represents a significant and positive contribution to timely and efficient resource development in Alaska. I strongly recommend that the Senate Resource Committee vote to advance this legislation.

Thank you.



888 700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V7Y 1G5

Telephone: 604.662.7307
Facsimile: 604.662.3791

March 12th, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to express our support for the passage of Bill HB77. As an exploration company and one whose exploration properties are all based in Alaska we believe that the streamlining of the permitting process is a necessity in order to ensure the continued exploration and development of Alaska. We over the past several years spent in excess of \$15 million dollars in order to explore our mineral properties. These expenditures are largely in State and result in the employment of Alaskans.

In our ongoing conversations with investors we continue to hear that the greatest challenge to continuing to fund exploration and development companies with projects in Alaska is the permitting risk within the State. We believe that a message from the State indicating the streamlining of the permitting process would be favourably received by investors. A negative decision during this downturned exploration period would have far reaching consequences and one that we believe will lead to the substantial loss of jobs within the exploration and development community.

We strongly support a streamlined permitting process whilst at the same time protecting environmental concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Kristina Walcott
President and CEO
FREEGOLD VENTURES LIMITED

FIRST THINGS FIRST

ALASKA FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 240605
Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone
907.463.3433 fax
ftffoundation.org

March 14, 2014

Neil MacKinnon
President

The Honorable Cathie Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

RE: House Bill 77

Joseph Kahklen
Secretary

Dear Senator Giessel:

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure and is good public policy. 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.

Directors
Corey Baxter
Richard Burns
Gail Dabaluz
Naomi Hobbs
John Sandor
Ursula Sfraga
Scott Spickler

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.

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

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. Its adoption is good public policy.

Sincerely,



Neil MacKinnon
President

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

Kevin Greenfield
3300 North Shore Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

April 5, 2013

Senator
Senator
Senate Finance Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am a Placer miner in the interior of Alaska. Having a stable predictable permitting system is critical to our business.

This bill provides for the use of a General permit process. A process that has been utilized by many federal agencies. I support this process it will improve the efficiency of the State government and not only help the placer mining industry, but many other small business across the state.

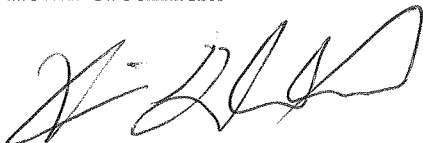
The bill clarifies who can apply and who can hold an in stream water reservation. This section will help prevent special interests from reserving in stream water reservation for the only purpose of obstructing development in the State. This will help our small company by keeping the water reservations managed by State agencies only, not federal agencies or ENGOS. I urge you to support HB77 as written with no amendments to this section.

The requirement in the bill that appeals to State lease and land disposals can only be done by those that are directly and negatively affected help prevent a often outside special interest from blocking permits.

HB77 has many things that are good for our business and other businesses in Alaska. I urge you to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kevin Greenfield

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Greenfield', written over a horizontal line.

From: Russell Lowney
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: BH-77

Cathy,

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My grandmother, father, myself and my son were all born in this great state. I urge you to vote yes on HB-77. This bill is solely about the permitting processes and does not make any changes to environmental standards or the laws governing water rights. Since when is reducing "red tape" a bad thing? With respect to instream flow reservations, the current law rewards whoever can get their paperwork filed first. This is a flawed process. Decisions should be made by reviewing all of the facts and coming to a logical and reasonable decision. Decisions should not be based on who wins a paperwork race. For too long, I have seen outside special interest groups set Alaskan policy by using the appeals process to block permits. Many times these attempts are in direct conflict with the people and groups directly affected by the project or issue. We need an appeals process that serves stakeholders – not outside special interest groups.

Please vote Yes on HB-77.

Russell Lowney | Osborne Construction Company | Project Manager

From: Tony wilson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB77

Dear MS Giessel,

I am supporting HB77 and urge you to do likewise. I believe the changes are beneficial to the orderly development in the State.

Thank You

Tony Wilson, PLS
Edge Survey and Design
12501 Old Seward Highway, Unit D
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Peggy Spittler

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:07 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

Importance: High

Please vote YES on HB 77

Peggy Spittler

Director of Marketing | Carlile Transportation Systems, Inc.

From: John Braham
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Senator,

Please vote yes on HB77

Thank you

--

John Braham

Midstate Equipment Inc.
2120 Badger Road
North Pole, Alaska 99705

From: Ella Ede
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please SUPPORT HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to you in support of HB 77. This bill will allow the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans who 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 tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in HB 77 help address the cause of the backlogs.

This important bill provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. The bill 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.

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.

Under the current system, individuals and anti-development groups have the ability of eNGOs to abuse the system and stop projects. HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise.

As you are preparing to vote on this bill, please consider the voices of individual life-long Alaskans like myself. It is critical for us to support resource development, which fuels our economy. It is imperative to provide clarity and consistency in the Alaska regulatory process in order for companies to continue to invest in Alaska.

As a life-long Alaskan and supporter of responsible resource development, I urge you to listen to Alaskans and support HB 77.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ella L. Ede
3060 Redwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: Green, Richard
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:37 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject:

Senator Giessel,

I am contacting you in support of HB77. I am on the Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC) and the Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA). Both of these large organizations are in support of HB77. Both of these organizations support environmentally responsible development and have articulated position statements supporting HB77. Please do not be influenced by the boisterous rhetoric displayed by the anti-development forces that are simply the tip of "Outside" arrows shot by outside influences whose goal is to inhibit and limit Alaska's resource development.

Thank you.

Richard Green LEED-AP BD&C
General Manager/Fairbanks
Spenard Builders Supply/ProBuild
2460 Phillips Field Road
Fairbanks Alaska, 99701

From: karen clautice

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:18 AM

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

Subject: YES on HB77

I am asking you to please vote YES on HB77.

There has been much organized opposition and misinformation distributed about HB77.

--It does NOT cut Alaskans from the public process, but rather strengthens their ability to participate

--It does NOT give the DNR Commissioner excessive authority

--It does NOT put salmon and the environment at risk

This bill 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 implements changes to more efficiently run State agencies and manage permits. It 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.

Karen H Clautice

P.O. Box 83628

Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Darwin Green
Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:37:00 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote yes on HB77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I urge you to vote yes on HB77. I represent a Canadian based mineral exploration company that invest millions into Alaska every year to discover and develop Alaskan mineral resources. My voice supports our local Alaskan employees and the communities within which we operate and where the potential for meaningful, high-paying jobs will contribute to the long term vitality of these communities (and perhaps remove the plywood from shuttered shop windows). In a world of every increasing delays and obstructionist self-interest activism, the Alaska permitting process and the HB77 provides a refreshing dose of reasonable, well considered updates to enhance efficiency. Efficiency is not to be confused with a reduction in quality, and the high standard of environmental protection that Alaska permitting system maintains – which is in both the Mining Industry and the Alaska governments best interest. An efficient, effective, permitting process is critical to Alaska's economy and ensuring investment dollars flow north. With infrastructure and seasonal climate challenges, and every fluctuating investment climate for exploration dollars, Alaska needs to continue finding ways to enhance and encourage exploration and reduce permitting delay; particularly so for the highest investment risk, small, early stage projects for which general permits simply make sense. With short exploration field season in much of Alaska, a delay in permitting can result in a project missing a year of work, which in turn can result in the project not getting funding, and the dollars never flowing into Alaska. Alaska competes with a global market, and every effort needs to be made to ensure exploration dollars, which are essential to finding the next generation of mines, continue to flow into Alaska.

Other key points include:

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 considering my comments when you vote on HB77

Darwin Green

Vice President Exploration

Constantine Metal Resources Ltd.

From: Jay Armstrong

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:44:40 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>, Ralph Hamm <hamm47@gmail.com>
Subject: I mine and I support HB77, SAY YES

Jay Armstrong here, I'm an Alaskan resident, I live in Wiseman Village and have been mining up here since the 1980's.

What the environmentalists have succeeded on doing at the federal level, they are now trying to start doing on a state level.

Environmentalists with connections on the inside are working together to stop resource development permitting on federal lands-it's now gaining strength on the State level.

This should be no surprise if you are paying attention, last year the feds spent 440 BILION in court fees stopping development of resources right here in the USA! Please do not allow this to start happening here 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.

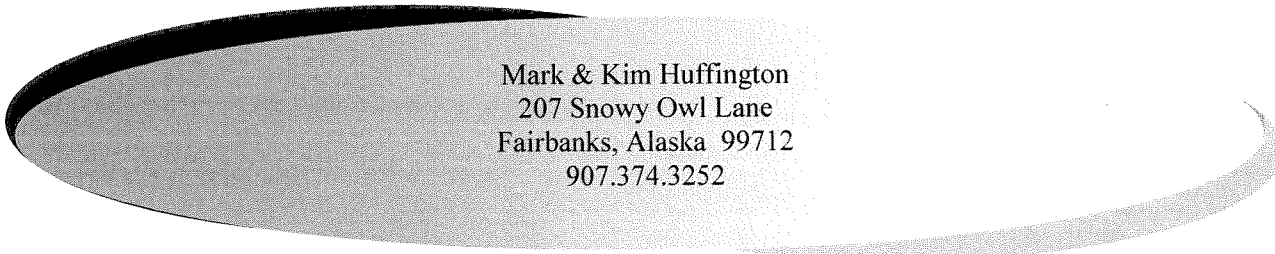
HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected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

Please use your common sense and vote YES on HB77!

Thank you, Sincerely

Jay Armstrong
Wiseman Village Lot 4E
PO Box 9008
Coldfoot Alaska 99709



Mark & Kim Huffington
207 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
907.374.3252

Email Delivery: senator.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

March 13, 2014

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB77 Land Use/Disp/Exchanges: Water Rights (Permitting Reform Bill)

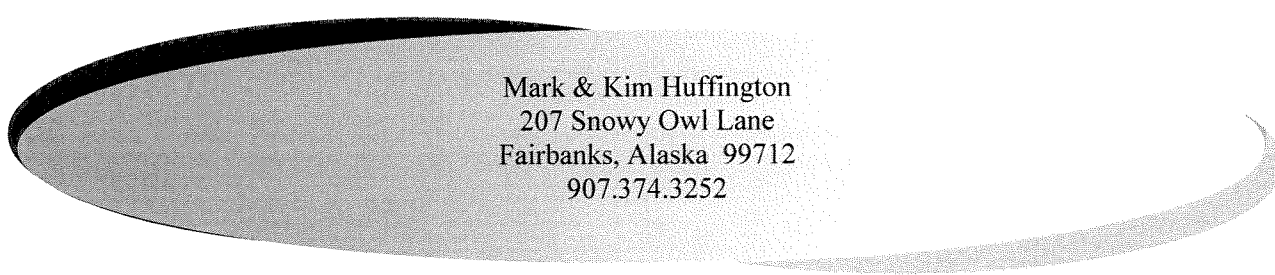
Dear Senator Giessel:

I am going on three years as a resident of Alaska from Colorado. I am also an environmental professional of 25 years of managing, auditing, and permitting experience under multi-media environmental programs including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Clean Air Act (CAA), Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and other environmental programs in the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. I have even managed and audited environmental programs in Canada, Greenland, and Mexico.

With this in mind, I would like to provide you my reasons why you should support HB77, Permitting Reform Bill.

- I find it refreshing that Alaska generally has legislation that use common sense as compared to the State of Colorado where it seems like the whims of a small minority gets the most attention and legislative bills are often enacted this way, which I find as detrimental to the welfare of Colorado and its residents. I certainly hope that Alaska does not go down this same path.
- I have noticed that Alaska permitting agencies are under the gun to do more with less, which is understandable in these trying economic times; however, they are not providing efficient permitting processes. Thankfully, these agencies have examined their regulatory processes and have determined that there are ways to increase their efficiencies. These efforts have also included discussions and outreach to Alaska stakeholders, and I have been present during agency presentations. Ultimately, the time and work the agencies put into making efficient changes have resulted in legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient and timely while, at all times, maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

Email: huffingtonmk@aol.com



Mark & Kim Huffington
207 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
907.374.3252

- HB 77, Permitting Reform Bill implements changes that will provide certainly and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining state agencies that operate efficiently.
- Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making good progress on its unacceptable application backlog. The funding is helping DNR reduce their backlog. However, more permit process improvements is needed.
- HB77, Permitting Reform Bill provides the issuance of general permits, which is dearly needed for minor projects, and these general permits make the permitting process very practicable and efficient for the permittee and agency. General permitting is a very common sense approach.

Contrary to what the bill's opponents are trying to get the committee to believe that there will be no public involvement in the permitting process. Public/stakeholder input is part of every general permit process. For example, the renewal of Alaska's Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharge, which is currently in the renewal process and involves public/stakeholder input. The US Environmental Protection Agency and states throughout the United States, including Alaska, have general permits that regulate stormwater discharges, air emissions from specific equipment, hazardous waste treatment processes/units, etc. Therefore, there is nothing new to general permitting and public involvement and there is no precedent being set with this included in HB77.

- I whole-heartedly agree that HB77 requires that the appeals process can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. The appeals process then has accountability by ensuring that only those who are directly involved by the stakeholder are involved in the appeals process and not some outside entity or special interest attempting to block a permit. The agencies do have the expertise to permit.
- HB77, Permitting Reform Bill ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so that have science-based expertise; our state resource agencies.

In closing, HB77 should be passed and allow Alaska to manage its resources and not from outside special interest groups or individuals. Please don't allow the loud minority sway your decision from voting in favor of HB77.

Thank You So Very Much for Your Consideration

Mark A Huffington

Mark A. Huffington
Proud Alaska Resident

Email: huffingtonmk@aol.com

From: "Cheryl A. Thyng"

Date: March 13, 2014 at 7:53:03 PM AKDT

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

Subject: Re: HB77: Please send support ASAP!

Please vote Yes on HB77, there are safeguards in place to protect natural resources and still ensure financial stability for the people who live and work here.

Thank you for your time.

Cheryl A Thyng
379 Flower Street
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Lewis
Date: March 13, 2014 at 8:00:13 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote YES: HB77

Vote YES on HB&&. As a small Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Katherine Lewis, Member, FGMGV LLC

From: Mahana Petersen

Date: March 13, 2014 at 7:16:33 PM 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: A YES vote on HB 77

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I'd like to take this time to strongly vocalize my view on HB77 and the upcoming vote. I unfortunately can't be at the public hearing but encourage you to vote YES on HB77 and to use your influence to truly voice the decision of the people.

In my view, HB77 calls for positive mandates within its scope that will help the State agencies under its purview become more effective and efficient. In this time of maximizing state budgets, the need to be more efficient and effective is crucial for staying within budgetary restraints and the overall success of any State agency.

In addition the requirement that sales, land disputes and leases can only be done by those directly involved or impacted by the decision eliminates unnecessary paperwork and wasting of departmental staff time. Again, creating a more streamlined and productive State agency.

The backlog of permit applications, the current lack of science based experts in regards to Alaska's water resources and the amount of red tape that is in the way, is keeping Alaska from reaching its goals in timely manner. HB77 helps resolve those issues. Its extra funding and efficiency measures will address all those problems currently bogging the department's productivity.

I hope you see my point of view and join with the rest of us adamantly asking you to vote YES for HB77.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mahana Petersen
Palmer AK