

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #7
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Drew Miller
6941 Gemini Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504

March 14, 2014

Senate Resources Committee
C/O Anchorage Legislative Information Office
733 W 4th Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Senate Resource Committee Members,

My Name is Drew Miller; I am a Professional Civil Engineer, Licensed in both Oregon and Alaska. My current job involves development within the state of Alaska, and therefore requires permits. House Bill 77 provides a degree of certainty and provisions for timely responses for permits within the state. This is key to continued development within the State. Knowing that if the requirements are met and steps are followed, a permit for a given activity can be expected to be issued in a timely manner. The use of general permits helps regulating agencies streamline the permitting process for small and routine projects that include activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. Also included in the bill are requirements for public notices and provides opportunities for public input on any general permit.

The continued prosperity and development of our great state is dependent on a stable and reliable permitting process that is efficient and can be counted on to issue permits in accordance with current laws and regulations in a timely manner. I urge the committee to support House Bill 77.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Drew Miller".

Drew Miller, PE

Jerry Birch
4740 E 115th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99516

March 14, 2014

Dear members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jerry Birch. I'm a placer miner in Interior Alaska. I've been involved in placer mining for 34 years and have been actively involved in the permitting process for placer mining for about 32 years.

The rise permitting burden and uncertainty is increasing the burden on both the operator and the state agencies. Therefore it's important to ensure that state agencies are able to efficiently process and manage permits in a cost effective and timely manner. This especially important for the small independent operators with limited resources. Looking back, it took a special appropriation by the legislature to help DNR make positive progress on a substantial permit backlog. But that backlog will come back unless we make changes such as those proposed in HB77 to give DNR the tools necessary to be more responsive and cost effective in the permitting process.

The ability to issue a general permit for activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute is such a tool. This is not some new or reckless concept. General Permits have been used successfully by Federal Agencies for quite some time. A General Permit Does not cut out the public process as the opposition to this bill portray in the media. There is a public notice process when a General Permit is proposed allowing the public to comment on what activities the general permit covers and what terms and conditions are in the General Permit. And it should be **emphasized that there are terms and conditions** that must be adhered to in a general permit and that an operator has to sign that he accepts them. But HB77 does increase the efficiency, predictability, and timeliness of the state agencies while maintaining their responsibility to protect the environment.

Another benefit of HB77 is with changes made to water reservations. It ensures that the state's water resources will be managed by the science based experts of the Alaska state agencies. And it gives the commissioner the flexibility needed to maximize the efficiency of processing the applications without jeopardizing the priority of appropriation.

On closing, I'd like to comment on the public hearing on HB77 on Wednesday that I attended. The Anchorage LIO was stacked by an organized anti-development group that made comments that this bill cuts Alaskans out of the public process, puts our salmon at risk, and harms traditional way of life. None of those claims are true. This bill adds some stability and efficiency to the permitting process.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jerry Birch

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:

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:44 AM

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

Subject: I support HB 77

Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

It is very difficult for working Alaskans to attend public hearings so I hope my email will carry equal weight. I am tired of environmental activists misrepresenting this legislation to mobilize their followers based on fear and misinformation. The revised CS for HB77 provides an appropriate balance of efficiencies, DNR authorities and fixes what is an abused process where environmental activists are using water reservations to continue their efforts to bring our resource based economy to its knees.

There has been much discussion in the legislature about federal over reach. I share those frustrations, however there is often little the legislature can do with respect to federal laws and actions. HB77 is a bill that fixes an Alaska statute that is causing undue delays in permitting projects.

Please make the right policy call in spite of the well orchestrated noise and pass this bill out of committee.

Thank you,

Phyllis Rogers

Senate District N

From: Cat Bradley
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Support of CS HB 77

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and members of Senate Resources Committee:

I am writing to support passage of CS HB 77. I believe this bill provide for more certainty in Alaska's permitting process, as well as streamline the process to cut red tape.

Individuals should not be allowed to apply for water reservations. Water is an important resource to all of Alaska, and who better to manage it than State agencies, using the best available science?

As a lifelong Alaskan, I know the importance of jobs and a good economy. I have two young sons, who I can only hope have chances for good jobs here when they grow up.

Again, I urge you to pass CS HB 77, and I thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Catherine "Cat" Bradley
Register Voter in District G-14

From: Mary Becker
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:59 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Please support passage of SB77. Thank you for your work to help our Alaska businesses.

From: Max Mertz

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:09 AM

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

Subject: Please Support and Pass HB77

HB 77 will be good for Alaska's economy, good for Alaska's businesses and good for Alaska's workers. Please pass this important legislation.

Don't buy into the misinformation that has been put out there by those that want to prevent development of Alaska and the ability of our residents to find good, high-paying jobs!

Max Mertz

President, Juneau Chamber of Commerce

Board Member, Alaska Chamber of Commerce

Max E. Mertz, CPA | Partner

From: Shelly Wright
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:19 AM
Subject: Fwd: AMA Action Alert on HB77

Dear Senator;

On behalf of Southeast Conference we support HB77.

We believe HB77 includes provisions which do encourage public input and make the processes we deal with in the mining industry more effective, efficient, and predictable. Thank you for your work to help Alaskan businesses.

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.

Shelly Wright, Executive Director
Southeast Conference
P.O. Box 21989
Juneau, Alaska 99802
Website www.seconference.org

From: Maynard
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:08 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: YES - I support HB77

Senator Giessel,

Please pass HB77. We must be able to have stability in the market place where companies may invest without constant fear of litigation and delay.

Thanks for all you are doing.

Sincerely,

Maynard Tapp

From: Steve Denton
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 Permitting Reform

Dear Senator Giessel,

I have been unable to attend hearings on HB77 and want to express my support for its passage. The charges leveled by the organized opposition to the bill that it will eliminate public participation, endanger fish resources, allow permitting of major projects without proper safeguards, etc. are ridiculous. All HB77 will do is take a first important step towards relieving the paralysis in the State's permitting process by streamlining permitting for routine minor activities and place Alaska on the road to rational management of our natural resources.

Please understand that the majority of Alaskans support rational resource development and are not part of the professionally aggrieved class that object to any effort to improve Alaska's resource based economy. Please join the majority of Alaskans and support passage of HB77.

Sincerely Yours,

Steve Denton

Country wisdom fer February/March in honor of confused global warming priests after the winter of 2014. "He don't know whether to scratch his watch or wind his butt."

Steve Denton

Denton Civil and Mineral

PO Box 149

Healy, Alaska 99743

From: Bridgman, Lee

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:40 AM

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

Subject: HB77

Please support HB77.

Lee Bridgman

763 Wanda Dr

North Pole AK 99705

From: Will Gove

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:38 AM

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

Subject: Bill HB77

Hi Senators,

As a leader and supplier to the Mining Industry in Alaska, I wanted to express my support of Bill HB77. Our clients (Exploration and Mining Companies) need the efficient permitting processes that the bill will permit. The lead time and capital costs associated with bringing a mine into production is already prohibitive enough for Alaskan Miners, this bill will help reduce the lead time and thus costs and thus provide economic benefits to Alaskans.

Regards Will.

Will Gove
General Manager North America

Swick Drilling North
America
1648 Pioneer Road
Sudbury, Ontario, P3G 1E2



From: Jay Page
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:33 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I support HB 77

Jay Page

From: Tammy Scholten
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:32 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support HB 77

Please continue your efforts to pass HB 77 for the good of Alaska,

Tammy Scholten

From: george and bobbie lounsbury
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: H.B. 77

Dear Senator Giessel,
I hope you support house bill 77 and its efforts to stream line the permitting process.
Keep up the good work,
George Lounsbury

From: Jim Duffield
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Vote yes on HB 77 please

Sent from my iPhone
Jim Duffield

From: Craig Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 support

Senator Giessel

I would like to voice my support on the HB77 bill and thank you for your consideration.
Alaskan's need to be in more control of our future resource development. Alaskan's for Alaska.

Thank you for your time

Craig Thompson

General Manager

Oil Field Operations

From: Greg Beischer

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:02 AM

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

Cc: Phil St. George; Sarah Whicker; Keith Granberry

Subject: accountability to appeals process

Dear Senators,

Our company, Millrock Resources works hard to attract investment capital to the State of Alaska for metallic mineral exploration and development. From outside, Alaska is viewed as a difficult and high-risk place to build a mine because of the uncertainty around issuance of permits. The delays and uncertainty caused by litigation and massive battles with special-interest groups are the main disincentives to resource investment in the state. This needs to change if Alaska is going to realize it's fantastic mineral development potential.

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.

The bill will increase efficiency of permit issuance without compromising the environment. Contrary to what the opponents of the bill say, HB77 actually strengthens public participation. But it limits the power of special interest groups to unreasonably and counter-productively obstruct, delay and frustrate good resource development projects.

On behalf of myself as a concerned citizen, and on behalf of Millrock Resources as its President & CEO I urge you to pass HB77.

Yours truly,

Gregory A. Beischer

President & CEO

Millrock Resources Inc

From: Jeff Foley
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I know that you are a leader in supporting the resource development industries in Alaska and I want to take this opportunity to give you special thanks for all you do. Currently, I am writing you and the other Resource Committee members to ask you all please support and pass CSHB 77 which is imperative to facilitate responsible resource development which is essential to Alaska's future. I agree in heart, spirit and detail with the testimony and comments provided by the Resource Development Council and Alaska Miners Association. Alaska cannot afford to restrict through unnecessary regulations our ability to responsibly develop our natural resources which are our only chance for a healthy economic future. The rest is secondary and is only possible by making Alaska competitive. Thank you especially and all the others for all you do to make Alaska a safe, productive and prosperous place of opportunity which we are all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

Jeff Foley

Geologist

11437 Tulin Park Loop

Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: Jespersen
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Senate Resources Committee,

Please do not let the environmentalists control what happens to the water in Alaska.

The Alaska State Constitution requires our state government to insure our natural resources are used to the maximum benefit of the people.

Water is the most basic of resources. Why then would you not want to improve the system by which water is protected?

HB77 insures that Water Reservations are held by the State of Alaska and not by any individual or group.

HB77 does not restrict the right of Alaskan's to participate in the process. In fact HB 77 requires that public hearings be held and public comments taken prior to any water reservation being granted. Once a reservation or permit has been granted HB77 requires any person or entity challenging the decision to have legal standing to do so.

Passing HB77 will improve economic opportunities in Alaska. We need to improve our economy and encourage companies to do business here so that my children will be able to make a living in our state. Please pass HB77.

Sincerely,

Michelle V Jespersen

1611 Dimond Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Saigen Harris

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:10 AM

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

Cc: Jim St.George

Subject: Support for HB77

Hello-

Please see the attached formal letter of support for HB77 from James St. George.

Thank you,

Saigen Harris

From: Amie Sommer

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:23 AM

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

Subject: HB77- I Support

Importance: High

Dear Committee members,

I support HB77 and appreciate their efforts on this.

Thank you!

Amie Sommer

Tutka, LLC

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:27 AM

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

Subject: I support HB77

Importance: High

Hello Senators,

I support HB77!

Thank you,

Ace Williams

Apps Systems Engineer

Wells Fargo - Technology and Operations Group

1500 Broadway St 2nd Floor | Lubbock, TX 79401

MAC: T3203-025

From: Candi English
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 11:34 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 Thank you

Thank you for being part of the responsible elements of developing our resources for the good of all Alaskans

Candi

907.223.7976 cell

8875 King Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

From:

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:13 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: I Support HB77

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,

Benjamin Ryan
13000 BIRCH RD
ANCHORAGE AK 995163045

From: Katie Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:15 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB77

Good afternoon senator,

As a concerned Alaska resident I would like you to know that I support CSHB77 and encourage you to pass it. Thank you for your time!

Katie Ryan

From: Daniel Wilkinson [<mailto:daniel.wilkinson@fairweather.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:37 PM
Subject: Support for HB77

Dear Senator,

I am writing you to express my support for HB77. I support fair, efficient, honest permitting that gives confidence in the process to companies that want to both protect our state and develop its resources. Please protect our home and way of life by moving this bill forward.

Thank you,
Daniel Wilkinson
Eagle River, AK
Alaska resident/voter

From: Stinson, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 10:47 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I support passage of HB77 as an efficiency measure which allows The State of Alaska and its permitting 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. HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Please support the passage of HB77.

Sincerely,

Bob Stinson

Senior Vice President

Price Gregory International, Inc.

From: Lorali Simon
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:51 PM
Subject: HB77 Truth vs. Myth

Dear Senator,

Thank you for all of your long hours, and hard work on HB77.

I know that you are being bombarded by testimony for and against the bill. I recognize how difficult it can be to wade through emotion, and often, irrational testimony. Fortunately, the policy arena isn't a popularity contest; it doesn't matter which side fills the room first, or sends the most email. As an elected official, you have the ability, however difficult, to set everything aside and base your decisions on the information in front of you.

As I have said before, I believe HB77 is necessary because it encourages responsible development of State land and water resources and its passage is necessary to stop abuse of the permitting process.

Sadly, there are individuals, groups, and organizations who do not want Alaska to develop its natural resources. Even though current law and regulation are in place to protect public health and the environment, these groups want to stop responsible resource exploration and production. There is plenty of evidence showing how they are using the current water use system to do just that. HB77 does not take away the public's access to participate in the permitting process.

Please support HB77 and prevent the water use system from being used to impede development projects.

Thank you for your service,

Lorali

Lorali M. Simon

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

Vice President, External Affairs

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:52 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I Support HB77

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,

Mr. R.Marc Langland
Chairman & CEO
Northrim BanCorp
10101 Schuss Drive
Anchorage AK 99507

From: All Pro Sales
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 12:56 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Hi Senator Giessel,

I strongly support your efforts on HB77 and thank you for trying to make it happen for Alaska's future.

Regards,

Jim Hill

Toyota Solutions

All Pro Alaska