

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #8
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/19/14

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From: carola young
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Giessel@akleg.gov
Subject: Fw: HB 77

Subject: HB 77

Senator Cathy Giessel,

I support HB77 and all 49 members of the Yentna Mining District have voted to have it passed. It is a sensible bill and long overdue.

We appreciate your valuable time spent on this Bill. We also thank you for your support on HB135.
Thank you.

Respectfully,
Carol Young, Pres.
Yentna Mining District

From: Bill Brophy
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 7:03 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77

Senator Giessel,

Simply stated you must support HB77 and vote yes.

This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

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

With best regards,

Bill

Bill Brophy
301 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Robert Carter
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 7:11 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77

I SUPPORT HB 77

R F CARTER

From: Steve Bills
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 7:21 AM
To: Steve Bills
Subject: HB77

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

Thanks

Thanks

Steve Bills
General Manager
TonaTec Exploration
801 446 2400 Office

From: Steve Borell
Date: March 18, 2014 at 10:31:24 PM AKDT
To: Sen Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen Kevin Meyer <senator.kevin.meyer@akleg.gov>, "Rep Bob Lynn "
<representative_bob_lynn@legis.state.ak.us>
Subject: HB-77
Senator Giessel,

HB-77 is badly needed to clean up several items in State Statutes that will help to improve the business climate. The proposed changes will in no way adversely impact the environment or the ability of State agencies to manage and control private persons or industry.

I urge that this bill be passed.

Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Borell Consulting Services LLC
6420 Rockridge Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Chaela Liss

Date: March 19, 2014 at 12:09:50 AM AKDT

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

Subject: HB77 Letter of Support

Dear Senators:

Please accept this letter in support of HB77.

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

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

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

Chaela Liss
3300 N. Shore Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Ryle Amberg

Date: March 19, 2014 at 12:13:56 AM AKDT

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

Subject: HB77 Letter of Support

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Please accept this letter in support of HB77.

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

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

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

Ryle Amberg

3300 North Shore Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Michael Jespersen
Date: March 18, 2014 at 8:53:36 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>
Cc: <sen.bertha.gardner@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 77
Senate Resource Committee,
I implore you to PASS HB77!

This is common sense legislation. Anyone who actually read HB77 or any of the committee substitutes knows the most commonly stated reason to oppose the bill is false. They would understand public comment is encouraged not stifled. They would understand that people who are adversely effected by any permit decision may challenge the permit. At the same time those who are opposed to all development will not be able to drag the permit process out for decades.

Water is the most basic of natural resources. As such it should be controlled and preserved by the state and not individuals or private entities. HB77 ends the race to request a permit. Science not emotion will be the basis for issuing permits and water reservations.

This bill along with many others you are working on this session improves the business climate in Alaska. That means more jobs so our children do not need to leave home after school. It means there will be more business and companies for the state to tax.

As individual Senators and as a Committee each of you control the future of this state. Do the RIGHT THING, pass HB77 and send it to the full Senate for a vote. Then vote to pass HB77.

Respectfully,
Michael Jespersen
Anchorage, Alaska

From: Daniel Jespersen

Date: March 18, 2014 at 9:07:50 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

Senate Resources Committee

I am a High School Senior and recently registered to vote. HB 77 is important to me, how you vote on this bill will determine if I will support you or your party in November.

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

Water is one of the basic of resources. Why then would you not want to improve the system by which water is protected? HB 77 insures that Water Reservations are held by the State of Alaska and not by any individual or group. HB 77 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, HB 77, requires any person or entity challenging the decision to have legal standing to do so. Passing HB 77 will improve economic opportunities in Alaska. I need a growing economy so people like me, will have a bright future in Alaska. Please pass HB 77.

Respectfully,

Daniel Jespersen

Anchorage Alaska

From: Paul Glavinovich
Date: March 18, 2014 at 6:53:06 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: <Deantha@alaskaminers.org>
Subject: CSHB77
Senator Giessel-

The following email message was just sent to the members of the Senate Resource Committee:

Senator:

I sat through the previous two public hearings on CSHB77 and it quickly became obvious that the majority of the respondents were either sadly misinformed or wedded to an anti-any resource development agenda. The negative rhetoric notwithstanding, DNR and you as Senators, have crafted a very timely and workable piece of legislation if Alaska is to witness any new resource development.

I strongly support CSHB77 and urge its passage.

Paul S. Glavinovich, CPG
Anchorage, AK

We are cheering for you and we all are impressed with your patience.

From: Tammy Oswald

Date: March 18, 2014 at 7:21:48 PM AKDT

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

Subject: I support HB77

I am employed with the Municipality of Anchorage and can appreciate permitting efficiencies which do not cut Alaskans out of the public process. HB77 actually strengthens the ability for the public to participate. As government had evolved over the years, permitting had become much more time consuming and uncertain. HB77 is a good attempt by the State of Alaska to streamline the process and re-install some certainty in the process of getting a permit without jeopardizing any environmental requirements.

I urge you to support HB77

Thank you for your time,

Tammy Oswald
3300 North Shore Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: Tom Sternberg
Date: March 18, 2014 at 7:35:11 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB77

Senator Giessel,

HB77 is good for Alaska and I support it. Thanks for all your help with this matter.
Regards,

Tom Sternberg
Anchorage

March 18, 2014

To: Senate Resources Committee

Consumer Energy Alliance – Alaska support for HB77.

You may wonder why Consumer Energy Alliance is concerned about the passage of HB77. Consumer Energy Alliance - Alaska advocates for access to onshore and offshore natural gas and oil, access to reliable, affordable electricity, and enhanced energy efficiency and conservation for the benefit of the Alaska energy consumer. Energy consumers in Alaska will benefit from a robust oil and gas industry and ability to build energy generation projects, including hydro projects, and distribution infrastructure.

Should HB77 fail to pass, the Department of Natural Resources will continue to receive applications for instream flow reservations filed with the intent to oppose and stop development projects. While mining appears to be the focus today, there can be no doubt that this tactic will be used against oil and gas developments, hydro projects and other energy and infrastructure projects.

For example, this tactic (instream flow reservations) was used by Greenpeace in the late 1990s in an effort to stop oil exploration on the North Slope. Greenpeace applied for an instream reservation for all of the water in the Kuparuk River. Greenpeace wrote DNR saying essentially: "We have our application in first. Therefore, we have some rights, and until you adjudicate our application – which typically takes years—you cannot legally give permits to allow oil companies to take water from the water reservoir. So please cancel all winter oil exploration on that part of the North Slope for a few years."

HB 77 solves the problems with the current system, which focuses on who gets paperwork in first. 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. It should not be based on who gets their paperwork in first. But, recent court decisions and environmental groups' legal claims are making it a paperwork race. HB77 diminishes the ability of eNGO's and anti-development groups to abuse the system using this tactic to stop a project.

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.

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.

For these reasons Consumer Energy Alliance – Alaska supports HB77.

Thank You,

Caroline Higgins

Caroline Higgins, Executive Director

Jason Brune

Jason Brune, Chairman

Cc: Alaska State Governor Sean Parnell

From: Peter Macksey

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:18 PM

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

Subject: HB77

Hi there;

A few days ago I asked for your support for HB77, I asked you to listen to both sides, but most importantly to make a decision based on what is good for the people of Alaska. That decision should include jobs, food, heat, fuel, medical, schools and social wellbeing first. Most problems go away if these not small things are met.

I received the following paragraph in requesting a note from me to you, there are enough non-revenue acres in Alaska without adding to the restrictions to the few that are available for development.

As one testifier said Friday night, if the anti-development forces are so adamantly against it, it must be a good bill. We believe it is. HB77 includes provisions which do encourage public input and make the processes we deal with in the mining industry more effective, efficient, and predictable. So it should come as no surprise that the campaign tactics being used by the opposition groups are generating generic comments that by number, are drowning out our substantive, thoughtful communications.

Thanks for your time and the thoughtful consideration you are giving this bill.

Peter

Peter Macksey

Estimator/Sales

STEELFAB

2132 Railroad ave.

Anchorage 99501

From: Drew Miller
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:19 PM
Subject: Support for HB77

Resource Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB77 in its current Version. As a Professional Civil Engineer working in the mining and development sector, a stable predictable permitting process is key to successful, sustainable, responsible development in the future.

I urge you and the other members of the committee to support HB77.

--

Drew Miller, PE
Taiga Mining Co.

From: Rebecca Logan

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:21 PM

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

Subject: CS HB 77

Dear Senators:

On behalf of our 500+ members and their 30,000 employees I encourage you to pass CSHB77 out of the Senate Resources committee.

While those who oppose the bill talk about "silencing" Alaskans and subverting the public process believe they are in the majority, they fail to recognize the hundreds of business owners and their tens of thousands of employees who are harmed by the abuse of the current system that allows people who are not stakeholders to delay development.

Delay =Dollars and Jobs lost. Real Alaskans are hurt when projects are stopped. A recent delay to a drilling project meant the loss of 60 jobs for one contractor this summer – 60 jobs, about 23,000 man hours, more than a million dollars in wages and benefits. For just one contractor.

A more efficient permitting system and ensuring that appeals are brought by those who are either directly involved or stand to be negatively impacted by a decision will have a positive impact on the responsible resource development that occurs in this state.

Thank you for all of your work on this important legislation and for allowing the public to testify.

Rebecca Logan

General Manager

Alaska Support Industry Alliance

From: Mjmartyn@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:45 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,

Matthew Martyn
1063 Alyeska Hwy
Box 715
Girdwood AK 99587

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support og HB-77

Sen. Giessel

I urge your support of HB-77. When the oil eventually runs out it is little changes such as HB-77 that will help to replace our tax base.

John

John Sturgeon
CEO/President
Ouzinkie Native Corporation
11001 O'Malley Centre Drive
Suite 105
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
Office 907-561-2452

HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure. 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.

From: Joe Griffith

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:10 PM

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

Cc: Dawn M. Baham; Julie Estey

Subject: HB 77

Senators:

This is a good bill and it should be moved forward. It does not do much of what was suggested at last week's hearing. What it does is simply promulgate a permitting efficiency measure. The State 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. We Alaskans need such.

Respectfully,

Joe Griffith

From: John Lamborn
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:13 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thanks for all the effort on HB77 and please vote for it. I am at work and can't make it to Juneau to tell you this in person. This bill is important for our state and its future.

Once again, keep up the good work,

Sincerely,

John C. Lamborn

Kevin Greenfield
3300 North Shore Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

March 18, 2014

All Members
Senate Finance Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators:

I want to reiterate my support for HB 77. I am a Placer miner in the interior of Alaska. Having a stable predictable permitting system is critical to my livelihood.

I want to thank you for your efforts. There are many complex issues that face Alaska. I appreciate your effort to thoroughly understand the issues that HB 77 address. Many of the people that testified against this bill did not make the same effort and frankly were either misinformed, did not read the bill or did not understand the current permitting system.

Most who testified against the bill did not take the time to understand the difference between a water right and a water reservation. We need our water reservations managed only by the state of Alaska not outside individuals or special interest groups. It is ironic to me to hear testimony demanding that the water resources belong to the people but yet the same testifiers are against HB77. A bill that will take in stream water reservation away from special interest groups and mandate management only by the State.

The use of a General permit process for small inconsequential activities will allow State agencies to spend more time on other complex permits and issues. A process that has been utilized by many federal agencies. I support this process. It will improve the efficiency of the State government and will help many small business across the state.

I support the changes that were made removing section 47 concerning a study of a hydro project in the Wood Tikchick State Park.

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

Thank you again for taking the time and courage to lead the State in a responsible way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Greenfield', with a long horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

Kevin Greenfield

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:31 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.

I expect you know that this bill 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,

Cindy Clock
Director
Seward Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 749
Seward, AK 99664

From: Walter, Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of CS HB 77

Good afternoon Senator Giessel,

I would like to take a moment to voice my support of CS HB77. As a 10 year Alaskan, who truly enjoys the beauty and unique opportunities we have available to us in this state, I support all economic and resource development. I look forward to the future we are all a part of here.

Alaskan projects see more and more opposition from the lower 48, and misuse of our responsible permitting process and state regulations. I believe CS HB 77 will reduce the ability of ENGOs to abuse the system and stop projects.

I also believe the bill will provide certainty in the permitting process, which can be the Achilles heel in moving forward with current and future projects in Alaska.

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

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

Sincerely,

Patrick Walter
811 Lancaster Drive
Anchorage AK 99503

From: Tm Reeves

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:46 PM

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

Senators:

I am in full support of HB77 and urge you to strongly support it.

In the last several days, I have been appalled at the ridiculous drummed up phony opposition to HB77 by special interest groups and uninformed parties. This bill does not in any way jeopardize Alaskan citizens right to participate in the public process and certainly does not create situations where salmon or the environment are at risk. That's propaganda and I hope you recognize that. People who do want to see responsible development for Alaska see that.

Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit but 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.

Mob rule should not apply here in Alasak.

I fully support the passage of HB77,

Tim Reeves

9436 W. Kanaga Loop

Eagle River, 99577

From: Fox Mining LLC
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please support HB77

I ask that you support HB77 and Alaska jobs.
Alaska is a natural resource based economy and those resources must be developed for Alaska to survive economically.
Tourism, fishing and subsistence living simply do not and cannot pay the bills to keep Alaska running.
Alaska is stagnant and dying. We now have;
The 1st Alaska budget deficit in 40 years.
Increased budget deficit projections in the future.
The 1st generation with a lower standard of living.
The 1st generation with a lower life expectancy.
Regulations and red tape are killing our State and our Nation. Please support HB77 for Alaska's future.

--

Randy Powelson
Fox Mining L.L.C.
P.O. Box 10776
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

A Conservationist believes in the wise use of resources and cleaning up when you're done.
An Environmentalist believes in locking up resources and never developing them.

From: Lalanya
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please Pass CS HB77

Dear Senator French and Senator Giessel,

I write today in support of CS HB 77, a bill that will provide assurance in the permitting process, while maintaining Alaska's rigorous environmental regulations. Too many times for too many things, our state is bombarded by outside groups trying to interfere with Alaska issues. I have been disappointed time and again in seeing ENGOs tie up important development and progress in our state based on stall tactics, misleading data or clever (but inaccurate) bumper sticker slogans. Decisions in our state should be made by Alaskans, through a proper process and should be based on facts and science.

CS HB 77 is a bill that improves the permitting process while keeping Alaska's stringent environmental standards in place, while also putting Alaskans to work. I urge you to pass CS HB 77.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Lalanya Downs
4110 Viscount Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502

From: Delbert Parr
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Vote Yes on HB77

Senator Giessel:

I will be brief since I wrote to you previously, but I want to reiterate my support for HB77. Alaska badly needs more effective, efficient and predictable public processes. I ask for your yes vote on HB77.
Thank you for all of your effort in considering this bill.

Respectfully,
Delbert Parr
2267 Franklin Street
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Miller, Mike
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support CSHB77

Senator Giessel::

Please support CSHB77. A good agreement is one where all involved are not happy with everything in the agreement.

The current, amended version – CSHB77 -- includes changes that limit DNR's authority to issue a general permit, define the process for issuing a general permit to include public comment, allows individuals, tribes and others to be able to apply for water reservations, but clarifies that the certificate will be issued to an appropriate state agency rather than a person. In times of declining budgets, general permits are an appropriate tool to efficiently authorize routine activities such as mooring buoys.

DNR has received over 300 applications for an instream flow reservation. The vast majority are from public agencies. In contrast to the almost 300 agency applications, the state has received 34 applications from other groups. Of the 34 applications, over 85% were from groups opposed to a development project. Their purpose is at least partially to use the application to alter or stop the agency permitting process

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Alaska.

Mike
Michael D. Miller
Business Development Manager/Estimator
Alaska Region-Granite Construction Company

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Senator Catherine Giessel
Senate, State Capitol
120 Fourth Street, Rm 427
Juneau AK 998011182
Fax: (907) 465-3871

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Senator Giessel:

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,

Brad Osborne
16318 Essex Park Dr
Anchorage AK 99516

From: McCabe, Christine

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:09 PM

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

Subject: Support for HB77

Good Afternoon Senators,

I am writing to inform each of you of my personal decision to support HB77. I work as an engineer in the mining industry, and the effects of passing HB77 will directly affect me, as well as many others in the mining industry, in a positive manner. I support the Alaska Miners Association's efforts with respect to HB77, and echo their thoughts on the reasons to pass the bill. I appreciate your efforts on HB77 and all that you do for Alaska.

Thank you,

Christine McCabe, EIT

Staff Consultant

Geotechnical Engineering

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:33 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I Support HB77

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I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Andrew Petro
Vice President
Wells Fargo Bank
5123 Cape Seville Drive
Anchorage AK 99516

Jerry Birch
4740 E 115th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99516

March 18, 2014

Dear members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and reiterate my support for HB77. My name is Jerry Birch and I'm a placer miner in Interior Alaska. My future depends on a stable, dependable and more efficient permitting system.

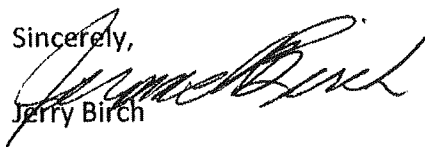
The increasing complexity of the permitting system has increased the burden on both the operator and the state agencies. The ability to issue a general permit for minor projects or similar activities in projects is a common sense tool that will reduce workload and expense to both the operator and the state agency. This is not a new concept. General Permits have been used successfully by Federal Agencies for quite some time. This bill does not cut out the public process as the opposition to this bill portray.

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. Listening to the opposition that testified at the hearing last week led me to believe that they either did not read the bill or they did not understand it completely. They did not seem to grasp that there is a difference between "water rights" and "water reservations" and how they are regulated. Water reservations as a state resource should only be managed by our state resource agencies.

On closing, I'd like to comment on the public hearing on HB77 on Wednesday that I attended. Contrary to what was said by the opposition, this bill does **not** put our salmon at risk nor reduce any threshold for environmental oversight. Nor does this bill harm any traditional way of life. I've been following this bill and applaud the hard work this committee has put into the bill. All the changes made thus far are acceptable to me. To me this bill mainly adds some stability, efficiency, and predictability to the permitting process. I urge the committee to pass this bill as soon as possible.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jerry Birch

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:47 PM

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

Subject: I support HB 77

And, thank you very much for your work on this important process-improvement bill.

Kate Lamal

Kathryn Lamal
Lamal & Associates
1734 Becker Ridge Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

From: Dennis Stacey
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:37 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: please support HB77

3/19/2014

Dear Senator Giessel:

We support HB77. This bill improves Alaska's permitting process.

We hope that you will support this legislation.

Thank you,

J. Dennis Stacey
Alice C. Stacey
2410 W. 70th Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:15 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I Support HB77

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

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Steve McDermott
Purchasing Agent
Udelhoven Oilfield System Serv
3600 Doroshin Ave
Anchorage AK 99516

From: Karl Gohlke
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77 Support

Good Morning Senator Giessel,

My name is Karl Gohlke and I work at Frontier Supply Company in Fairbanks. On behalf of my company we support HB 77. We have reviewed the new bill and remain supportive of all provisions which encourage public input and makes the permitting processes more effective, efficient and predictable.

HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure. 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. You have taken three steps forward towards progress do not let it take two steps backwards towards uncertainty and backlogs. I ask that you support HB 77 and vote YES.

Sincerely,

Karl Gohlke
Frontier Supply Company
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:20 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I Support HB77

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I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Bradley Hill
Safety Manager
47480 Sunflower Street
Kenai AK 99611

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:24 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I Support HB77

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

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mrs Caroline Lam born
Housewife
29945 aspen ln
Sterling Ak 99672

From: Jim Clark
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:32 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support for SRC CS for HB77

Dear Senator Giesel. Thank you for your leadership and work on the Senate Resources Committee Substitute on HB77. It is a good bill and should be enacted.

Most of the bill simply codifies practices that the Department of Natural Resources had already been doing.

There is a change with respect to in-stream water reservations. Section 41 authorizes the Commissioner to review a water reservation and revoke it if the findings he/she made to grant it "no longer apply." These sections effectively place water reservation rights in State hands. But, this is the policy in all other states. Section 42 (h) provides that the Commissioner has the authority to decide the order in which water reservation applications are processed. The environmentalists are claiming that this undermines the Western water law concept of the first in time is the first in right. However, the section specifically states that "the order in which an application is processed does not affect priority of appropriation."

Another change has to do with administrative appeal rights. Throughout its provisions the bill requires that a person be "substantially and adversely affected" rather than merely "aggrieved" in order to file an administrative appeal. Environmental groups have been claiming that this standard is unreasonably high. However, the notion that a person must be harmed rather than simply unhappy with a decision is not a new or foreign or overly high standard. It is a requirement for standing in state and federal litigation.

Environmental groups are unhappy with the authorization of general permits. Again this is not a new concept. The Corps of Engineers has over 50 nationwide permits. The idea is that for a particular class of activities (e.g. putting up a cabin on leased state land) a person could proceed without specific authorization from DNR as long as the requirements of the general permit are met. The environmentalists complain that Section 1 of the bill authorizes the commissioner to choose what classes of activities qualify for a general permit based upon whether or not the department "finds that the activity is unlikely to result in significant harm to state land or resources."

Such a decision is appealable, which is new. And, the "notwithstanding any other provision of law" language that was in the original bill has been removed. This takes away the argument that the Commissioner could override the authority of ADF&G in issuing general permits.

Section 22 would make land trades with the State easier by modifying the equal value requirement by authorizing the trade if it is in the best interest of the State (as opposed to consolidating State holdings).

These are good changes to the permitting system and I urge the Resources Committee and the Legislature to move forward with them. Regards, Jim Clark.

From: Papac Alaska Logging, Inc.

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:27 AM

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

Subject: HB77 support

To Whom It May Concern;

On Behalf of Mike Papac, president of Papac Alaska Logging, Inc. and all of people who work for this company, their families supported by this company and our affiliates whom we subcontract work....please remember that we all support HB77 and would appreciate your consideration that it is important to us that HB77 passes.

Thank you,

Kate Lankford, Office Manager
Papac Alaska Logging, Inc.

From: Donald Stevens

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:23 AM

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

Subject: Your Support for HB77 Is Required for a Strong Economic Future for Alaska

Senator: The anti-development NGO zombies are out in force to stop HB77. Armed with misinformation and misguided zeal, they outnumber Alaskans who support rational development projects based on science-based permitting. We developers all hope that the Alaska we pass on to our children will have abundant economic opportunities and be better than the way things are now.

If HB77 is not passed, projects in Alaska will be drastically slowed down, or stopped all together. Businesses will be forced to close. Why allow the rights to public resources to be controlled by outside interests whose motives are contrary to everything the Statehood Act promised? The State of Alaska cannot fulfill its obligations to Alaskans or the rest of the nation unless we are allowed to develop our resources: oil and gas, gold, other metals, timber, coal, etc.

Please support HB77 and thereby demonstrate your support for a better Alaska.

Don

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

From: Paul Jensen
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:21 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 support letter

Dear Senator Giessel,

I've read the original HB77, as proposed by Governor Parnell, and fully support the changes he had proposed to the existing state laws governing land management. In particular, I appreciated the explicit reservation of waterway governance to the State, though public testimony will obviously be taken into consideration. These are Alaska's waters, and should not be 'reserved' for private persons to effectively prohibit the DNR from managing the waters in the best interest of the State. And, unfortunately, without changing the waterways wording, as proposed, outside or private interests can effectively shutdown large areas from any land use by simply retaining lawyers to petition and sue the DNR regarding their water reservation petition.

It simply isn't right for groups to have this 'backdoor' approach to managing our States waters. Everyone should have to request uses through the DNR, as do most groups currently. If someone simply does not want anyone else to use the water, they can testify against every proposal for use that comes into the DNR. If a watershed is to be protected entirely from development, then a State Park or National Reserve can be sought for; otherwise, the DNR (and other agencies, depending on the application) should be allowed to freely determine water rights according the current intent of the law, according to each usage application.

Sincerely,

Paul Jensen
Professional Geologist
Alaska Mineral Resource Group
AKMRG.com

From: jon doe
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:12 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Dear. Senator Giessel

Hi I would like a minute to say that I work in the mining sector in Alaska at the tiaga gold mine and believe the permitting process is important in maintaining future employment. I would urge to support HB77 and pass it as soon as possible. Thank you for your time, sincerely
Evan H. Englert

From: To
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:33 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support

I support CSHB 77 please pass it.

Thank you

Roy Walluk Jr.