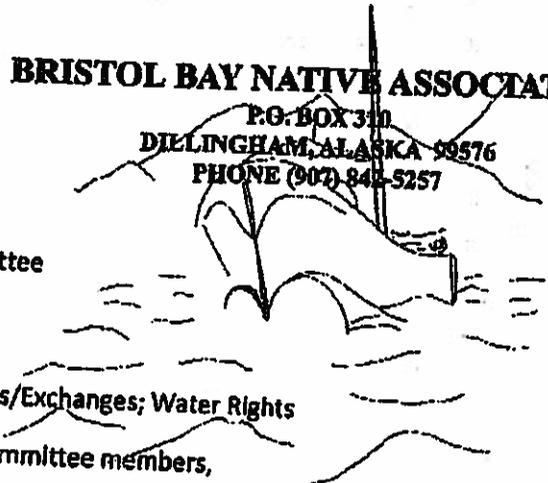


# BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310  
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576  
PHONE (907) 842-5257

February 25, 2013

Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska



Tribal Councils Served by BBNA:

RE: SB 26 Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights

Aleknagik

Dear Senate Finance Committee members,

Chignik Bay

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bristol Bay Native Association, I am writing to convey the serious concerns we have with SB 26 and ask that you take into consideration our comments when the bill comes before the Senate Finance Committee.

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

The Bristol Bay Native Association is an Alaska Native regional non-profit corporation and a consortium of the 31 federally recognized tribes of the Bristol Bay region. The watershed of the Bristol Bay region supports the world's most prolific wild salmon runs. Harvesting this resource is essential to the continued cultural and economic viability of the diverse Alaska Native cultures of our region, and to the economic well-being of the State of Alaska.

Clarke Point

Coryung

Egegik

Hikuk

Ikroavik

Bristol Bay Native Association has worked hard to secure over \$500,000 to support water reservation applications by member tribes and other non-governmental entities for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation. These funds have been used to pay for field work by USGS and qualified hydrologists as well as the technical expertise needed to perfect (finalize) these applications. To date, this includes fourteen (14) stream reservation applications for which data is still being collected and final applications being worked on in accordance with current water reservation statutes and regulations.

Igiagik

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kamtak

King Salmon

Kokhanek

Section 40 in SB 26 is especially troublesome as it removes the ability of organizations such as BBNA to apply for a reservation of water to maintain sufficient water flow for protection of fish and wildlife. In addition to affecting the fourteen stream reservation applications referenced above, this provision would also eliminate the right of tribes and others to file future applications to ensure valuable water resources and uses are protected. Furthermore, there is no fiscal note associated with this bill. Does DNR, ADF&G and DEC have an existing surplus of funding and expertise on hand to take on sole responsibility for reserving water when and wherever needed in the State of Alaska?

Kotiganeek

Levelock

Mackenzie

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Courtenay Gomez, Natural Resources Director at 907-842-6244 or [cgomez@bbna.com](mailto:cgomez@bbna.com) if the committee has questions or would like additional information regarding our initial comments.

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Sincerely,

Portage Creek

Ralph Andersen, President and CEO  
Bristol Bay Native Association

South Naknek

Togiak

Cc: Senator Stevens  
Representative Edgmon  
Representative Herron

Twin Hills

Ugashik