



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

Office of the Commissioner

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January 22, 2013

The Honorable Eric Feige, Co-Chair
The Honorable Dan Saddler, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Feige and Representative Saddler:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) respectfully requests a hearing in the House Resources Committee on HB 77, "An Act relating to the Alaska Land Act, including certain authorizations, contracts, leases, permits, or other disposals of state land, resources, property, or interests; relating to authorization for the use of state land by general permit; relating to exchange of state land; relating to procedures for certain administrative appeals and requests for reconsideration to the commissioner of natural resources; relating to the Alaska Water Use Act; and providing for an effective date."

The purpose of this legislation is to make minor, clarifying statutory changes that will help the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) do its business more efficiently and should enable the public to be better served by making the permit process more timely and certain.

HB 77 also authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to allow an activity on State land through the issuance of a general permit. This bill also reforms and streamlines procedures for obtaining, issuing, and appealing permits, leases, best interest findings, and other authorizations issued by the DNR, particularly concerning land and water. Another more notable change would greatly simplify the state's land exchange process.

A copy of Governor Parnell's transmittal letter, the bill, a briefing paper, sectional analysis, and fiscal notes accompany this request.

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated. If you need any additional information, please contact Esther Tempel, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources at 907-465-4730 or Wyn Menefee, Chief Operations Officer for the Division of Mining, Land and Water at 907-269-8501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel S. Sullivan".

Daniel S. Sullivan
Commissioner

Cc: Heather Brakes, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor