



*Conserving and protecting habitats in Interior and Arctic Alaska
for wildlife, culture, environmental health and future generations since 1971.*

March 14, 2013
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) is opposed to HB 78 and SB 27 which authorizes the state to evaluate and seek primacy over dredge and fill activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. These bills attempt to take unprecedented actions to strip away the role of public participation in addressing oil, gas, mining, and other industrial projects in Alaska's rivers, streams, wetlands and coasts and prime fish and wildlife habitats.

This legislation proposes to eliminate the Army Corps of Engineers' role in permitting in Alaska-for dredging, draining, filling, rerouting, or development in wetlands. This would eliminate the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement and NEPA review which provides a robust public process and evaluates alternatives and impacts to clean water, fish, and wildlife. HB 78 and SB 27 will allow the state to roll back regulations, making it easier for corporations to develop wetlands without a thorough review of alternatives and potential cumulative impacts to clean water, fish, wildlife and migratory birds-all of which are used as local food sources for many Alaskans

HB 78 and SB 27 take direct aim at citizen involvement and create significant barriers for Alaskans to participate in resource development decisions. The state cannot manage or develop Alaska's resources for the maximum benefit of its people without a legitimate level of participation by the public so we ask that you vote no on HB 78 and SB 27.

Sincerely,

David L. Arnold, Ph.D.
Executive Director