



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Transportation and
Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Patrick J. Kemp, P.E., Commissioner

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March 25, 2013

The Honorable Alan Austerman, co-Chair
The Honorable Bill Stoltze, co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 519
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman and Representative Stoltze:

Senate Bill 27 will allow the state of Alaska to evaluate the costs and benefits of assuming primacy for dredge and fill permitting within Alaska from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and take action to receive federal authorization for permitting authority by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the ACOE.

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is one of the largest permittees for the ACOE and will be the department most affected by implementation of the transfer of permitting responsibilities from the federal agencies to state agencies. DOT&PF supports any effort to streamline and simplify permitting activities, and is confident that under state control, permitting activities will be streamlined with a risk-based approach applied to these activities. DOT&PF has valuable expertise in the Clean Water Act permitting process and is available to assist DEC and DNR in the analysis of assuming state primacy over dredge and fill activities.

DOT&PF believes that Alaska control over the limited scope of wetlands permitting authority that the federal government may relinquish to the state will have positive benefit for the state. DOT&PF would encourage a further evaluation of assuming primacy for permitting of all waters and wetlands within Alaska, regardless of marine or navigability classifications to clearly define federal versus state jurisdiction in final permitting.

In summary, DOT&PF supports Senate Bill 27 and the positive impact it will have on building critical transportation infrastructure for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Patrick J. Kemp, consisting of a stylized 'P' and 'K'.

Patrick J. Kemp, P.E.
Commissioner