

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Testimony
HB 77- Land Disposals/Exchanges: Water Rights
Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Good afternoon co-chairmen Feige and Saddler and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Rachael Petro and I am the president and CEO of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. The Alaska Chamber is a statewide membership organization made up of all sizes and types of businesses from across Alaska.

The Alaska Chamber's primary mission is to advocate for policies that improve Alaska's business climate. Efficient, predictable and common sense regulations and permitting processes are integral to creating an environment in which businesses, new and old, can succeed. Each Fall Alaska Chamber members gather to set its legislative agenda for the following year.

For the past several years in a row, including this year, Alaska Chamber members have expressed strong support for Alaska's policies and regulations that guide development of Alaska's natural resources while protecting Alaska's environment. At the same time, we have also advocated for streamlining those same regulations and policies where bureaucratic and business efficiencies can be gained.

In regard to the Fraser Institute's study, referenced earlier today in testimony, internationally, Alaska ranks just below Kazakhstan and just above Columbia in regard to uncertainty concerning environmental regulations. In regard to regulatory duplication and inconsistencies Alaska ranks below Honduras and just above Niger. Alaska Chamber members believe Alaska can do better!

The Alaska Chamber supports the provisions within HB 77/SB26 because they provide clarity, eliminate unnecessary processes, and modernize statutes based on the experience gained over many years from the professional staff within the Department of Natural Resources.

It is our belief that HB 77 is a common sense piece of legislation that should receive broad bipartisan support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.