

Mr. Chair and committee members: My name is Richard Bishop. I live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

I am glad to be able to exercise my right to speak on Alaska's public affairs. I have been involved in Alaska's renewable resource issues for over 40 years – as a biologist and as a public interest advocate.

I have generally tried to be reasonable -- but now I'm mad.

I oppose the confirmation of Ms. Jahna Lindemuth, who at the expense of Alaskans at large seeks consensus on various issues.

I am fed up with fumbling federal overreach. I am fed up with insidious internal special interest imprecations.

I am fed up with erosion of Alaskans' equal protection under our Constitution by both of the above with regard to resource management and allocation and even basic civil rights.

Regarding the value of consensus to Alaskans I am reminded of this quote from Margaret Thatcher:

“Consensus is the process of abandoning all beliefs, values and policies in search of something in which no one believes but to which no one objects; the process of avoiding the very issues that have to be solved merely because you cannot get agreement on the way ahead. What great cause would have been fought and won under the banner ‘I stand for consensus’ ”?

The state and the spirit of Alaska are under attack – from within and without. Alaska needs a champion – not an architect of cloying consensus regarding such issues as -- fee to trust tribal lands; the Interior Dept. / Ahtna MOA; and RS2477 issues.

I urge legislators not to confirm Jahna Lindemuth as Alaska Attorney General.

Thank you.