

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** Alexandra Caccavo <aec3w@virginia.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 25, 2019 6:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** SJR 7

To Whom It May Concern;

I understand that the time for oral testimony on SJR 7 in the Senate Resources Committee has already passed. I was patched into the discussion on SJR 7 this afternoon just minutes after the time for public comment had closed.

I would like to submit for review my own comments. My name is Alexandra Caccavo, and I am an employee of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District as well as a tour director in the state of Alaska. I graduated with a degree in biology from the University of Virginia, and I therefore consider myself more competent than the general public when it comes to analyzing scientific data. I am fortunate enough to have traveled the world extensively. This combination of life experience and education has lead me to truly treasure Alaska because it is one of the final great expanses of land in the world that has not become completely developed and ruined by modern industry.

Alaskans value the opinions of Alaskans. Alaskans are proud and feel that outsiders should not choose what happens to their state. I hope that if you are Alaskans, you have had the same opportunity as I have to see what the rest of our country and other heavily developed and populous countries are like. If not, I urge you to do so. It is important to learn from the triumphs and mistakes of other societies. Additionally, while I understand the Tax Act of 2017 requires the lease of 400,000 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I don't believe it is the Alaska State Legislature's duty to endorse this rider that had no business being thrown onto the bill in the first place. Can't we, as Alaskans, say no?

The final remarks of your committee meeting included support for a transition to 100% renewable energy. Instead of saying, we need money that drilling in the ANWR will bring in order to begin that transition, why not invest now? For years, Alaska gave oil companies millions of dollars in cash subsidies - why? This is our land, and these are our resources that they turn a profit from - why should we pay them in addition to allowing them to destroy our lands and waterways? They need us more than we need them. You can't drill for oil in Vermont or New Jersey or Nevada, can you? The time is now. Divert funds away from oil and gas. Prevent new drilling sites from being established. Invest in renewable energy.

A few notes on the ethics and legality of leasing land in the ANWR Coastal Plain: drilling in the Coastal Plain would be in direct contradiction to ANILCA's mandate to ensure "water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge" to preserve the existing habitats. Additionally, Senator Kawasaki questioned at the end of your meeting today whether or not Alaska Natives in the region truly support drilling. I would like to applaud this and also remind you that anthropologists widely agree that Alaska Natives have been in Alaska for about 10,000-15,000 years. Alaska was sold to the U.S. government in 1867. How dare we decide what to do with this land? Should this not be determined by the Alaska Federation of Natives? Is it ethical for anyone to vote to permanently destroy this or any portion of Alaskan land? Is this truly what is morally right for posterity?

I know my comments are not eloquently written today, as I write with a sense of urgency. I hope that my voice as a constituent is still heard and valued. I am not a lobbyist. More importantly, I am a citizen, and the Alaska State Legislature should be working for Alaskan citizens, not oil interests or even your counterparts in the federal government. You have the chance to say no to the Tax Act, and I urge you to do so.

Thank you for your time. While I understand SJR 7 has been moved out of committee, I still wanted to share my thoughts. When you vote on this resolution, I hope you consider some of the questions I posed and that you take your constituents concerns and opinions into account.

Kind Regards,

Alexandra Caccavo