

Sen. Chris Birch

From: George Campbell <outback@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 3:21 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Cc: Lynette R Campbell
Subject: SB 51

Honorable Senators,

Thank you for your time and efforts on Alaskan's behalf. The discussion about Tier 3 Waterway designations is important, and your willingness to create legislation to keep decisions within Alaska's control is to be applauded.

Any land designation that has the potential to restrict use for all time should be required to go through not only a governmental and legal review, but should also require that the people of Alaska, those affected by the restrictions, overwhelmingly agree through a voting process that the designation and restrictions are the proper choice. I suggest an 80% agreement by the people as the benchmark to enact such a decision.

My parents moved to Haines in 1968; since then I have been actively hunting, fishing and recreating in the Chilkat River Valley- a river suggested to become designated as Tier 3- and it's tributaries. Growing up I commercial fished, then transitioned into commercial flying, in which I now split my time between that and fish habitat construction and rehabilitation. My life centers around the outdoors and health of the ecosystems.

I was in school through the big logging years, which coincided with the big fish returns. My friends and I would leave high school and head up the valley to hunt fish or other outdoor activities; still today I partake in many of those endeavors. As an adult I now get to share my years of knowledge of the Chilkat Valley with today's youth, hunting, fishing, boating, and other activities year around.

My wife and I acquired remote property in the upper Chilkat Valley some twenty years ago. Designating any part of the Chilkat River as an "outstanding" waterway would directly impact our ability to access and enjoy our property. Specific examples:

We purchased a second lot in hopes that our son would some day want to have his own cabin near ours. Currently that lot is covered in trees and brush. Studying Case Laws of the Tier 3 designation, and the wording of the federal regulations, if we tried to develop that lot after the Chilkat River was designated "Outstanding" we would most likely be required to submit multiple documents proving that the development would not create more runoff into the nearby stream; currently the regulations allow for existing levels of discharge, but no increase. Clearing an area is documented to increase run-off in excess of 60%, which would increase the discharge; the addition of a building can increase that through the channeling of water off of the roof. Both the cleared land discharge and the building discharge would be considered an increase- which would not be allowed under the regulations.

We currently have no limit on how many boat trips we take to our property, or how much we travel on the river. Under the regulations concerning "Outstanding" waterways, they specify the volume of discharge to current or existing. There has not been any documentation of how to measure what current and existing discharge. We use outboards to travel on the river, it would be simple to determine that discharge is related to number of trips on the river. If we historically make seven trips a year in our boat- we could be limited to seven trips a year. What happens once we retire and have more time to go to our cabin? What happens if our son moves back to town and wants to take his family up to the cabins? Under current regulations we could be limited to a fixed amount of trips to our private property through this onerous regulation.

There are many more issues with designating any Alaskan waters under this set of regulations. For SB 51 the important thing to consider is that the designation is not reversible, and our Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren will be hindered with the repercussions of waterways so designated.

For all of the reasons and examples I have stated, please ensure that any designation requires a vast majority, (80%) of not only lawmakers, but of the people to ratify such a serious decision.

Thank you,

George Campbell
Haines Alaska