

**From:** [Sen. Click Bishop](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SB 62  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 11:44:11 AM

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**From:** Rika Mouw <rikamouw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof <Sen.Natasha.VonImhof@akleg.gov>; Sen. David Wilson <Sen.David.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** SB 62

Dear Senators,

This bill is one that I urge you to vote against.

I live on Kachemak Bay and have spent decades protecting lands surrounding it and the waters within it. It is my home and the center of my world.

On Saturday I will spend the day doing a Sea Duck Survey.

Every month I monitor a particular beach for dead sea birds and pick up trash.

I am involved in a number of conservation efforts and am bringing attention to the value of peatlands in storing carbon in the ground rather than having it be released in the air.

Every day of my life is given to an effort to minimize the effects of our rapidly changing climate.

I am horrified that there is an effort to drill and extract any sort of fossil fuel within the boundaries of a critical habitat environment.

- **SB 62** would be in **direct conflict with Alaska Statute 16.20.500**, which states that the purpose of the Kachemak Bay CHA is to:

“protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.”

In all likelihood, it is also in direct conflict with the statutory purpose of every other State Park, Game Refuge or Sanctuary, Critical Habitat Area where it would be applied.

- Large-scale water withdrawals to support drilling and fracking under Alaska's protected lands will mean **drawing down water tables** in and around protected lands—which in turn will lead to warmer water in streams and lakes, harm to essential fish habitat, wetlands and peatlands. In our already warming and drying climate, we cannot allow this.

- **Hilcorp cannot be trusted to operate safely under our Critical Habitat Area.** In 2017, we saw them leave a leaking gas pipeline go un-repaired for over 4 months, while it leaked 100,000 cubic feet per day. According to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation records, over the course of operations in Alaska, which began in 2012,

Hilcorp is responsible for over 90 crude oil spills or discharges, including spilling 10,000 gallons on Alaska's North Slope in 2015. Their record is so bad that the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has concluded that Hilcorp has a culture of disregard for regulatory standards: **"The disregard for regulatory compliance is endemic to Hilcorp's approach to its Alaska operations...Hilcorp's conduct is inexcusable."**

In this day and age it is time to stop extracting fossil fuels all together and certainly within the boundaries of legislatively established critical habitat areas.

I urge you to vote against SB 62.

sincerely,

Rika Mouw

Homer, Alaska

from the shore of Kachemak Bay