

From: [Sen. Click Bishop](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: FW: please oppose SB/HB 62
Date: Friday, March 18, 2022 7:34:02 AM

From: sharon whytal <swhytal@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 9:00 PM

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>; Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>; Senate Finance <Finance.Calendar@akleg.gov>

Subject: please oppose SB/HB 62

Dear Honorable Legislators,

As always, you are in a position to help determine Alaska's future and the future for generations to come. I appreciate all your efforts to weigh the important matters at hand, and to search your souls for what is right. I feel strongly that this is a crossroads, and I ask your support in making good choices. Here are some of the most important points I see to consider before your 9am meeting tomorrow. Sorry this is so last minute—we are all juggling so much right now! I appreciate your taking the time to consider this message and these specific points:

- We need to continue to **safeguard our protected lands and waters** if we want wild places, wild salmon, big game, their supporting industries, and our Alaskan way of life. The bills jeopardize Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, as well as Alaska's State Game Sanctuaries, State Game Refuges, State Parks, and other Critical Habitat Areas.
- 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.”
- HB 82 and SB 62 **threaten the livelihood** of commercial, sport and subsistence fishermen, as well as local guides, lodges, B&Bs, and charter boat companies whose businesses depend on protected lands and waters.
- **[Seismic exploration](#) on protected lands and waters is highly likely** if this bill passes. It is well-known that seismic surveys threaten [marine mammals](#) and kill large numbers of [zooplankton](#), disrupting the food web. **Seismic surveys** have no place in Kachemak Bay CHA, or any of Alaska's State Parks and Reserves.
- Lateral drilling technology allows companies to **drill and frack up to [six miles](#) into protected areas from outside platforms**. At any point along the way, they can hit

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- Lateral drilling technology allows companies to **drill and frack up to six miles into protected areas from outside platforms**. At any point along the way, they can hit underground aquifers and cause long-term contamination of waters within the protected area. Contamination of underground sources of drinking water and surface waters often result from spills, leaks, and faulty well construction.
- 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.
- Water that comes out of wells contains high levels of toxins and heavy metals that are harmful to living organisms. This is no small matter, when according to [studies](#) by Duke University, up to **16% of hydraulically fractured oil and gas wells spill liquids every year**.

PLEASE, OPPOSE SB/HB 62 on March 18! Alaskans need a strong voice to protect our waters for now and for generations to come...

Respectfully,
Sharon Whytal, RN, BSN, BSW
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