

HB 120

Testimony Packet

House Resources Committee

House Resource Committee members,

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) recommends that the H(Res) Committee hold HB120 in committee at this late date in the 32nd Legislative session. The Dunleavy Administration has of yet not reached out to outdoor organizations and explain how providing the opportunity for individual commercial operators to turn public state lands into private commercial adventures will benefit the majority of folks who access public lands.

If passed into law HB120 would essentially gut the state public land managing process that AOC and other NGOs have participated in for decades.

Thank you for your consideration on this legislation.

Rod Arno
Public Policy Director, Alaska Outdoor Council

5/4/22

Dear Chairman Representative Josiah Patkotak and House Resources Committee Members,

HB 120 is detrimental to state lands and the public and local community interest. Specifically:
-Inadequate Public Process for Commercial Land Disposal and -undermining local government goals and community and state management plans.

Public Process

The commercial land disposal process must have requirements to inform adjacent land owners. This is currently not a requirement.

Regulations for public notice and best interest finding process must include the ability for the public to request a public hearing with a recorded public record of such a hearing.

The DNR Commissioner has said that the process would be similar to the best interest process for oil and gas licensing. Well, southcentral Alaska just went through the best interest finding for Susitna Valley Coalbed methane exploratory licenses. Adjacent landowners were not notified. No request for a public hearing was allowed. If that is the example, I am opposed. The public interest and involvement is being watered down in this bill.

Community, Borough and State Land Management Plans must NOT be eliminated.

The Public put a lot of time investment in these plans. There is a very real fear that this new state land disposal process will undo or just plain ignore these local plans in places like Willow, Talkeetna and Sutton.

Because of HB 120 provisions, will ADNR be able to eliminate the protections of the riparian management areas in the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan? Currently, the Recreation River Corridors have a conservation buffer and a protection area in the Corridors. New disposals are not allowed. Will this be overridden?

Yes, a lot of these plans are older now. The lack of revision many times is ADNR's lack of effort. That should not be a reason to ignore these public plans.

How can we preserve important state habitat land areas that are the economic drivers for our tourism, fishing, hunting and recreation economies in the face of HB 120 changes?

Becky Long

5/4/22

Dear Chairman Representative Josiah Patkotak and House Resources Committee Members,

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- Inadequate Public Process for Commercial Land Disposal and
- undermining local government goals and community and state management plans.

Public Process

The commercial land disposal process must ***have requirements to inform adjacent land owners***. This is currently not a requirement.

Regulations for public notice and best interest finding process must ***include the ability for the public to request a public hearing with a recorded public record of such a hearing***.

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Because of HB 120 provisions, will ADNR be able to eliminate the protections of the riparian management areas in the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan? Currently, the Recreation River Corridors have a conservation buffer and a protection area in the Corridors. New disposals are not allowed. Will this be overridden?

Yes, a lot of these plans are older now. The lack of revision many times is ADNR's lack of effort. That should not be a reason to ignore these public plans.

How can we preserve important state habitat land areas that are the economic drivers for our tourism, fishing, hunting and recreation economies in the face of HB 120 changes?

Becky Long

I am strongly opposed to HB 120. This bill does nothing to resolve any existing problems and it just gives away Alaska's Lands to corporate interests over Alaskans. This is just another give away program that

gives our nonrenewable resources with minimal gain to Alaskan's and will further threaten our clean water, and lands that provide habitat for our wildlife and fish resources.

The only provision in the bill that have any merit are the agricultural provisions, however they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the bill.

Please do not allow HB 120 to pass in a rush to get out of Juneau!!!

Sincerely,
Mr. Richard Gustafson
PO Box 4144 Homer, AK 99603-4144
rlgust71ak@gmail.com

As the session winds to a close and you consider final bills to push forward this year, please put the breaks on HB 120 which would allow DNR to liquidate state lands by selling them off to outside interests and pushing Alaskan's who fish, hunt and recreate out while stripping salmon habitat protections like mineral closing orders when lands leave state ownership.

This bill does not resolve any existing problems and will favor outside corporate interests over Alaskans. Specifically HB 120 does the following:

- allows DNR to sell Alaska's state public lands for 70% of assessed value- ie. not much of a revenue generator for the state.

- State public lands offer hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities and provide habitat for our fish and wildlife resources. Fragmenting state public lands by selling them off in a piecemeal fashion threatens our use and enjoyment of those lands.

- Allows DNR to sell public lands for speculative industrial/ commercial development with no perceived return on investment

- Allows DNR to sell land closed to mineral development by reclassifying that land for other uses. Most mineral closing orders are in areas with highly productive fish habitat. This provision threatens our fisheries.

- While the agricultural provisions are good, they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the bill.

Sincerely,
Mr. Gregory Rider
2211 Daybreak Ct Anchorage, AK 99501-5718 mtrider4@bresnan.net

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Sincerely,

Dr Sheryl Salasky

PO Box 196 Talkeetna, AK 99676-0196

salasky@mtaonline.net

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Sincerely,

Mr. Sean Varrati

3007 W 30th Ave Anchorage, AK 99517-1761 varrati@gmail.com

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(Haven't time to personalize; these proposals look OK to me!)

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Shaffer

PO Box 123 Moose Pass, AK 99631-0123

shaffer.kevin@gmail.com

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Remember we Alaskans??? State land transfers must first be considered regarding any impacts or loss to Alaskans!

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Sincerely,

Ms. Kristine Hutchin

10335 Stewart Dr Eagle River, AK 99577-9559 khutchin@mtaonline.net

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Sincerely,

Ms. Macy Kenworthy

4141 W Dimond Blvd Anchorage, AK 99502-1404 macy.kenworthy@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

Dr Rick Luttmann

PO Box 144 Eek, AK 99578-0144

rick.luttmann@sonoma.edu

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Sincerely,

Ms Karen Walker

120 Savikko Road Douglas Harbor E8 Douglas, AK 99824 karenWalkeryoga@gmail.com

Please oppose HB 120, a bill that is bad for Alaska because it puts its water resources at greater risk.

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Sincerely,

Mr. David Wellman

HC 60 Box 227 Copper Center, AK 99573-9703 d@welms.us

The Dunleavy Administration's proposal HB120 effectively gives away State Lands to private developers rather than protecting and managing these lands for the benefit of Alaskans. Putting our lands and water in private hands will erode vital protections for our wild salmon and wild salmon rivers.

Therefore, as you consider final bills to push forward this year, please oppose HB 120 which would allow DNR to liquidate state lands by selling them off to outside interests. The effect of this bill is to push out Alaskans who fish, hunt and recreate, as well as stripping salmon habitat protections, such as mineral closing orders, when lands leave state ownership.

This bill does not resolve any existing problems and will favor outside corporate interests over Alaskans. Specifically HB120 does the following:

- Allows DNR to sell Alaska's state public lands for 70% of assessed value. This is not much of a revenue generator for the state.
- State public lands offer hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities and provide habitat for our fish and wildlife resources. Fragmenting state public lands by selling them off in a piecemeal fashion threatens our use and enjoyment of those lands.
- Allows DNR to sell public lands for speculative industrial/ commercial development with no perceived return on investment.
- Allows DNR to sell land closed to mineral development by reclassifying that land for other uses. Most mineral closing orders are in areas with highly productive fish habitat. This provision threatens our fisheries.
- While the agricultural provisions are good, they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the HB120 bill and it needs to be voted down.

Alaska's salmon streams and interconnected watersheds support special places like Bristol Bay and provide the nurseries for our world class salmon fisheries. HB120, the AK Lands Giveaway Bill, would allow the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to extinguish existing mineral closing orders and sell off these lands for the benefit of outside developers, not Alaskans.

I ask that you oppose passage of HB120, it is clearly not in the interest of Alaska or Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Ms. Laurie Daniel
PO Box 3713 Homer, AK 99603-3713
lauriedanieltnc@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Schell

2214 Halibut Point Rd Sitka, AK 99835-9625 alfaye@gci.net

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Mr. Greg Svendsen
3590 E Klatt Rd Anchorage, AK 99516-2101 gsvendsen@gci.net

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Sincerely,
Ms. Deborah Voves
13231 Mountain Pl Anchorage, AK 99516-3150 dkvoves@gci.net

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Sincerely,

Mr. Jim Steffen

PO Box 936 Sitka, AK 99835-0936

1norcoast@gmail.com

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Mr. Nathaniel Perry

PO Box 71002 Shaktoolik, AK 99771-1002

nep2004@gmail.com

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Mr. Robert Winckler
6011 S Roosevelt Dr Wasilla, AK 99623
winckler@mtaonline.net

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Sincerely,
Mr. Rick James
PO Box 870521 Wasilla, AK 99687-0521
birder@mtaonline.net

This is not the right path for Alaska to follow!

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Sincerely,

Mr Nicholas Cassara

2895 N Robin Ln Palmer, AK 99645-8778

nickc@mtaonline.net

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Sincerely,
Ms. Michele Cornelius
PO Box 295 Gustavus, AK 99826-0295
michelescornelius@gmail.com

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Mr. Russell Miller
530 Grubstake Ave Homer, AK 99603-7639
rustical3@gmail.com

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- allows DNR to sell Alaska's state public lands for 70% of assessed value- ie. not much of a revenue generator for the state.

- State public lands offer hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities and provide habitat for our fish and wildlife resources. Fragmenting state public lands by selling them off in a piecemeal fashion threatens our use and enjoyment of those lands.

- Allows DNR to sell public lands for speculative industrial/ commercial development with no perceived return on investment

- Allows DNR to sell land closed to mineral development by reclassifying that land for other uses. Most mineral closing orders are in areas with highly productive fish habitat. This provision threatens our fisheries.

- While the agricultural provisions are good, they should be pulled out and moved to a stand-alone bill. There is more bad than good in the bill.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jamison Ramsey

3806 Fairview Ave Ketchikan, AK 99901-5336 jamisonramsey69@gmail.com

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I am a former commercial fisherman (13 seasons in Bristol Bay, 1 in Cook Inlet) who has done personal use fishing, subsistence fishing and sport fishing in AK (since 1949).

Sincerely,
Mr John Jensen
312 Thomas Cir Anchorage, AK 99508-2262 norwejohn@gci.net

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Sincerely,
Ms. Lisa Slepetski
PO Box 51 Moose Pass, AK 99631-0051
meekers@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

Ms. Lynn Wilbur

8515 Jennifer Dr Apt 1 Juneau, AK 99801-9092 kalei.lw@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

Mr. John Breiby

5280 E Mcdowell Rd Wasilla, AK 99654-9034 jbreyby44@gmail.com

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Dr. Richard Rothstein

2409 La Honda Dr Anchorage, AK 99517-1343 richlroth@mac.com