



The Honorable Click Bishop, The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Co-chairs Senate Resources Committee
33rd Alaska State Legislature

Re: Support for Senate Bill 92 STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND.

March 21, 2023

Dear Senators Bishop, Giessel, and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter and Kenai Peninsula Chapter support Senate Bill 92 STATE OWNERSHIP OF SUBMERGED LAND.

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI's approximately 50,000 members and 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI AK) and Kenai Peninsula Chapter (KPSCI) are 501c4 conservation non-profit corporations. SCI AK was established in Alaska in 1977, and currently has 670 members. Our joint mission statement is "First for Hunters - First for Wildlife."

SB 92 asserts that, by operation of law, submerged lands under navigable waters in areas managed by federal agencies were conveyed to the state from the United States pursuant to the Equal Footing Doctrine of the U.S. Constitution, the federal Submerged Lands Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act. Since statehood, navigability determinations have been made through administrative processes and litigation brought by the state pursuant to the federal Quiet Title Act. This bill is intended to bring clarity to state ownership of submerged lands in federal areas and to claim, occupy, and possess all such submerged lands as state sovereign property.

Having navigable waters under State management is critical to the people of Alaska. Under state management Alaskans will actually be able to access and use these resources whereas, under federal management, that will always be in question. We will never be able to predict what regulations ever-changing administrations will implement. After 13 years, \$1.6 million, and two unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decisions (*Sturgeon v. Frost I & II*) it should be clear to the Federal Government that Alaska has the right to manage all navigable waters within the state. Unfortunately, the feds are ignoring the will of the court and not acknowledging the right of the State to manage its navigable waters. To date, the feds have only approved the transfer of 9% of the State's navigable waters since Statehood.

We thank Senator Giessel for introducing SB 92 and fully support the legislature's efforts to bring submerged lands—and therefore navigability—under state control.

Best regards,

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

SCI Alaska Chapter

Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Email: president@aksafariclub.org

Cell (907) 903-8329

Tel: (907) 980-9018

www.aksafariclub.org

Ted Spraker

SCI Kenai Chapter President

SCI Kenai Peninsula Chapter

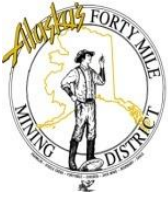
Soldotna, Alaska 99577

Email: tedspraker@gmail.com

Cell (907) 262-9592

www.kenaisci.org

Safari Club International Alaska Chapter
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife



Fortymile Mining District
P.O. Box 4
Chicken, Alaska 99732

Dear Senator Giessel,

March 20, 2023

I am writing to you on behalf of the Fortymile Mining District to give our support for SB 92, the "Ownership of Submerged Lands" bill.

Alaska's fight for ownership of our navigable and submerged lands is long overdo!

The Fortymile Mining District has a rich history in Alaska's past and hopefully it's future.

Back in 1980 when the Federal government imposed a Wild & Scenic River designation on top of our historic mining district, the struggle to survive began almost immediately. One of those struggles has been the navigability issue and State ownership of the river bottom.

We look forward to supporting you in any effort to see SB 92 become law.

Good luck and thank you for your effort in moving this bill along!

Sincerely,

Dick Hammond – President

Fortymile Mining District

PO Box 4 Chicken, AK 99732

As the Fortymile Mining District, we're proudly moving towards the future while helping to preserve our past, our public lands, our historic communities, and our livelihood as miners.