

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Jon Hough](#); [Julia OConnor](#)
Subject: FW: Alaska Outdoor Council comments of support for SB92
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 5:21:40 PM

From: Rodney Arno <rodarno@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Outdoor Council comments of support for SB92

Senator Cathy Giessel,

Alaska Outdoor Council comments supporting passage of SB92 on the the Senate Floor.

The Alaska Outdoor Council represents 42 Outdoor orientated clubs and thousands of individual residents who; hunt, trap, fish and recreate on public lands in Alaska. Representatives of the Alaska Outdoor Council have been at the front of advocate for public access to public resources since statehood, our memberships activities are totally dependent on their ability to access, public lands and waters.

Version 33-LS0536/A of Senate Bill 92 if passed into law would help fulfill the promises made in the Alaska State Constitution Article 8, Section 3, Common Use.

“Thewaters of the state are reserved to the people for common use.”

Federal lands managers in Alaska do not like the fact that federal law; the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959, among other federal laws all give the State of Alaska the authority to honor the public trust doctrine and keep waterways open to the public for people access. Federal land managers challenge most attempts by the state to exert it’s authority over navigable waters. They’re still doing it in spite of the win in the Sturgeon v. NPS case at the US Supreme Court level.

Alaska’s Congressional delegation have done little to avert the costly collision between the state and federal land managers over public rivers (navigable) for decades. It’s passed time for the State to assert, it’s authority to navigable waters.

The State can’t afford the cost or time necessary to assure access for the public to federal managed lands fast enough. Time is on the federal land managers side as knowledge of river trail at statehood is lost.

A proposed CS to SB92 is totally unwarranted. There are a number of areas of “federally owned land” is not open to public use. It’s federal lands “managed by federal agencies” that’s the problem SB92 is wanting to correct.

As stated from last session when a similar bill was introduced, SB92 has nothing to do with ANCSA lands, Villages, or any other privately owned lands. Those fights over public access to rivers and lakes will take place in state courts. SB92 is picking a fight with federal lands managers in federal court, not state court.

Membership in the Alaska Outdoor Council want the state to help ensure that the federal land managers follow federal law, and allow regulated public access to federal public lands and waters

Rod Arno
AOC

Sent from Rod Arno's iPad.