



March 15, 2023

Senate Resources Committee
Senator Click Bishop and Senator Cathy Giessel, Chairs
Alaska State Capitol

Comments submitted via email

Re: Support for SB68, Public Notice for Water Rights

Dear Chairs Bishop, Giessel, and members of the Committee:

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in support of SB68

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state.

Alaska businesses have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep their doors open and employees safe. The Alaska Legislature should not impede the progress that's been made as we look forward to a healthy, post-pandemic economy. Throughout this ordeal, Chamber membership has consistently and steadfastly opposed legislative efforts to impose new regulations that interfere with private business owners' ability to run their businesses. In our view, the current form of SB156, however well intentioned, does just that.

Each year, the Chamber membership reviews, discusses, and votes annually on its policy positions and priorities to serve as our advocacy agenda moving forward. For a number of years, the Chamber has had a position that supports the automation for processing of titles, liens, notary signatures, and other paper-based processes to improve access, delivery turnarounds and lower cost of operations. SB68 streamlines an antiquated process and provides for a common-sense efficiency as it relates public notice for water rights.

The Chamber urges the Senate Resources Committee to pass this bill as it is currently written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President & CEO



471 West 36th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503



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Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
Virginia N. Farmier
1201 9th Avenue, Ste 101
Fairbanks, AK 99701

March 15, 2023

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Majority Leader
120 4th Street
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 68 (vsnB)

Dear Senator Giessel,

I was made aware today of Senate Bill 68 removing public notices from being published in local community newspapers. For a while now I've been wondering where public notices by the State of Alaska have been published?

I have lived in the Fairbanks/North Pole communities for over 50 years. I and many in my community read the classified notices in our local newspaper for information as to what's occurring in our state. Many in the Fairbanks North Star Borough do not have access to the internet at their residence. This bill will do a disservice to our community and our state as a whole. We need Alaskan residents to be more involved in state government, not less. Postings only on the state website limits the visibility of these notices.

Senate Bill 68 will not allow citizens to stay informed with important water rights occurring in our state. We need transparency now more than ever. One way for that transparency is that our local and state government publish through the local community newspapers what meetings and state business is taking place.

The public has relied on community newspapers to keep them informed and to publish public notices. If the state government publishes their own notices where's the transparency in that? I took an informal survey today of people in Fairbanks asking them if they knew the state had an "online public notices" website and they did not.

Keeping public notices in the local community newspapers is part of the checks and balances that our country was built on. I hope you will reconsider your sponsorship for Senate Bill 68, it does not serve the best interest for Alaskans.

Sincerely yours,
Fairbanks Daily News-Miner



Virginia N. Farmier
Executive Director

CC: Senator Kawasaki, Bishop, and Stevens

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Senator Giessel,

I became aware today of Senate Bill 68, and I'm writing to express my strong opposition to it. SB 68 seeks to remove the requirement to publish public notices in a newspaper and instead place them on a state-run government website. I believe this change would have serious negative consequences for transparency and public participation in important decisions related to water rights.

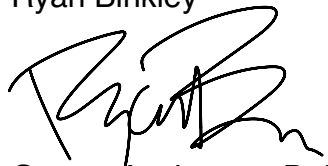
The current law, which requires notices to be published in newspapers of general circulation, ensures that the public is informed and has the opportunity to provide feedback and input on matters that affect their communities. Newspapers (and their websites, which include all the notices published) have a vastly wider reach and are more accessible to Alaskans who may not have access to the internet or are not frequent users of government websites. This change would disenfranchise these individuals and limit their ability to participate in the decision-making process.

Furthermore, placing notices solely on a government website will stifle the visibility of these notices, making it easier for them to be overlooked or missed entirely. This could lead to important decisions being made without sufficient public input or scrutiny, which is not in the best interest of the people of Alaska.

I urge you to consider the potential negative consequences of this bill. The current system of publishing public notices in newspapers has worked well and has ensured that Alaskans are informed and have a voice in important decisions that affect them. Please do not take away this vital tool for transparency and public participation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and if your schedule allows I'd love the opportunity to provide feedback (including data showing the reach of newspapers and their websites) in person or by phone.

Ryan Binkley



Owner, Anchorage Daily News

From: [Anne Rittgers](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: FW: Senate bill 68
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 12:27:12 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2023-03-28 at 8.44.06 AM.png](#)

From: Krista Wilkinson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 4:49 AM
To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>
Subject: Senate bill 68

33rd Legislature(2023-2024)

BILL HISTORY/ACTION FOR LEGISLATURE

[Next Bill](#)

BILL	SB 68	BILL	
CURRENT STATUS	(S) RES	VERSION	
STATUS DATE	02/10/2023	SHORT TITLE	PUBLIC NOTICE FOR WATER RIGHTS
SPONSOR(S)	SENATOR GIESSEL		
TITLE	"An Act relating to public notice for a sale, appropriation, or removal of water, or for filing a declaration of a right of water; and providing for an effective date."		

Please continue to print public notices in the local newspapers for water rights.
I read the newspaper and I fully support the including of requests for water right alterations.