

Doniece Gott

From: ~~Kim Broughred~~ <kimbroughred@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:01 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,


You truly must reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. Isn't this reason enough???: Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment!!!

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kim Mauney

~~Kim Broughred~~ 781-225-1000 kimbroughred@yahoo.com

Doniece Gott

From: 
<rosss.heckmann@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:04 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ross Heckmann



Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<akfrogprincess@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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It's time to put the Planet and ALL it's residents ahead of profit.

Sincerely,
Ms Julie K Wahl

2023 Rexa Dr Anchorage, AK 99508-3591
akfrogprincess@gmail.com

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<jessenelson9teen82@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 9:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr Jesse Nelson

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:06 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Mike Yanak

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<adi1del@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:15 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Me Del Stiewert

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: NO! to Alaska's DEC's attempt to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees.

The State of Alaska does not have either the budget or capability of taking on this highly important and complex job.

Clean water is a high priority to me and to our community.

Vote NO on this proposal. Alaska has other priorities right now.

Let's build our economy with a reliable AMHS, with investments in trails and outdoor recreation, and keeping this state a healthy and desirable place to live and work.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kathleen Menke

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED] <maryjo.wilkins@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. MaryJo Wilkins

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED] SASS
<csass@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mrs CINDY SASS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<v.duggin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mrs Vicki Duggin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<tipping_harold@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Harold Tipping

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] San Jose, CA 95121-2420 tipping_harold@everyaction.com

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<NorthCityGirls@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Suzanne Little

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<khutchin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Kristine Hutchin

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<mzldiondrajean@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:47 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Donald Lawhead

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. PHYLLIS CHINN

[REDACTED] pchinn125@y...com

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: @everyactioncustom.com>
To: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:24 PM
Subject: Senate Finance Committee
Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,


As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Kathy Dabanian

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: 
<brendainalaska610@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Brenda King



Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<goddard.shelton@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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I worked as an environmental regulator and analyst for many years before becoming a professor in the University of Alaska system. As a regulatory body, you should know that the state cannot enact guidance, regulation or laws that are less than the scope of federal law. They may only enforce to a higher or more strict regulatory standard. So, if the intent of this maneuver is to then be able to supersede the EPA's, or USACOE ruling, then the state is not only sorely mistaken and taking a sharp turn towards public corruptness, but also will cost Alaskan's millions in wasted revenue based on a poor plan. Be better, act better, do better.

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric Goddard

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: K. Murphy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: DEC and wetlands permitting.

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I think it would be a huge mistake to allow DEC to take over wetlands permitting from the Federal govt.
Can Alaska really afford this?
How much will it actually cost down the road?
I thought this was the fiscally conservative governor. This is a huge waste of state money.

Thank you for your time.

K. Murphy

Doniece Gott

From: Beth Leban <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:32 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Reject budget item for DEC to takeover CWA section 404

I am concerned about clean water and preserving our wetlands in Alaska and am writing to ensure that the Federal government continue to oversee permitting under the Clean Water Act Section 404 for our state.

I am asking that Alaska legislators vote to reject any funding in the budget for AK DEC to take over the vastly complicated and extensive Federal permitting program.

Alaska's fish, habitat, salmon, and residents need well managed permitting programs to protect our immense, precious, and fragile environment.

Beth Leban
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Doniece Gott

From: Luann McVey <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 1:12 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Reject Section 404 Funding for Wetlands

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I urge you to reject any funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation's management of fill permitting of our state's many many miles of wetlands. The federal government is already doing a well-funded, well-informed job of this, at no cost for the state.

Under Governor Dunleavy's poor decision-making skills and his misguided rush to develop our resources, I'm certain the DEC will sacrifice our precious wetlands, the critical rearing habitats for salmonids and other valued estuarine species, in pursuit of the almighty dollar.

Our state faces an enormous deficit and wetlands permitting will require a substantial output of funds. With existing staffing shortages, we can be sure that the DEC will not do a thorough, studied job, if allowed to assume this responsibility now handled by the federal government.

I implore you, while finishing up our state's operating budget, do not allocate funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation to undertake section 404 fill permitting on our precious wetlands. We have too much to lose.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Sincerely,
Luann McVey
Retired Alaskan teacher
[REDACTED]
Douglas, Alaska 99824

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 12:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Changes to Clean Water permitting

Please reject any funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) poorly conceived initiative to take over Clean Water Act 404 permitting from the Federal government. Why?

- DEC's request — an annual \$5 million dollars and 32 staff — barely scratches the surface of what the real recurring costs of the program would be. This legislature currently faces a deficit of hundreds of millions of dollars — taking on a vastly complicated and extensive program and creating an entirely new state bureaucracy from scratch is not fiscally responsible, and the state has not demonstrated a willingness to fully and adequately fund the DEC during this administration
- Only three states have taken 404 permitting on — although over 20 have considered doing so. Why? Because even in states with far, far fewer wetlands than Alaska, it is widely understood that this is a difficult and very expensive undertaking - one that is currently done at no cost to the state.
- DEC is not up to the job. The agency has already slashed important programs like the ocean rangers program and oil spill response and has experienced significant issues in staffing, having lost many long-term employees and much institutional capacity in recent years. Given an anticipated lowball, shoestring budget, permitting across the agency could soon suffer significantly and Alaska's essential fish habitat could be subjected to permits that are not protective of the foundation of Alaska's commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries.
- Expensive lawsuits are a certainty and could tie up the state in court for years. Alaskans care deeply about the land and waters we depend on and will not be shy about litigating with an agency that has as poor a track record as the DEC.

Southeast Alaska's fish, habitat, salmon, and residents deserve better than to have to watch the state mismanage essential Clean Water Act protections.

Thank you,

Sue Badilla
Juneau, Alaska
906
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Susan Crandall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Clean Water Act

Reject DEC's request to take over clean water act. My reason is because Alaskans need to preserve our water for all future generations. We are good at managing our wildlife. Our fish and water supply depend on proper management too. Fund to keep our water clean.

Thanks for being part of the Senate Finance Committee, Susan



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229

Phone: (907) 586-2820

E-mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org **Website:** www.ufa-fish.org

April 10, 2023

**Senate Finance Committee
Sent Electronically**

RE: State Assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 Permitting Program

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

On behalf of UFA, we urge you to remove the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) request for \$5 million in the operating budget to fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program. We believe that DEC's assumption of the program threatens Alaska's wetlands and salmon rivers that support our fisheries.

Alaska's wetlands and headwater streams provide essential habitat for juvenile salmon and other important fish species. The Clean Water Act 404 permitting program authorizes the dredge and fill of wetlands and streams for development projects. While we support development and other industries in Alaska, we also must ensure that projects are developed and permitted in a way that protects critical fish habitat. We are concerned about DEC's statements regarding its desire to assume the program to streamline the permitting process and reduce enforcement and mitigation requirements. That approach can have major implications for the protection of fish habitat and our fisheries.

We are also concerned that this proposed budget appropriation is not nearly enough to fund a complicated permitting program. Only three states have assumed the 404 permitting program due to its high cost. DEC's recent feasibility study was designed to analyze the benefits of assuming the permitting program. Missing from that analysis is the true cost of the program to the state of Alaska, including exposure to and costs of potential lawsuits. Without a clear picture of the real costs, we believe it is unwise to start a program that the state may not be able to adequately administer.

Finally, it is also highly unlikely that stable funding will be available for the program over the long-term. DEC's budget cuts over the last several years have led to fewer staff and cuts to programs that protect sensitive habitat and our fisheries. Future staff cuts and budget reductions for this permitting program will inevitably lead to a streamlined approach and result in permits issued that do not protect our wetlands, rivers and salmon habitat. UFA respectfully requests that

the Senate Finance Committee remove the \$5 million funding appropriation for DEC to assume the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the operating budget.

Regards,



Matt Alward
President



Tracy Welch
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association • Alaska Trollers Association
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Area M Seiners Association • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association • Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Fishing Vessel
Owners Assn Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Crab Alliance Cooperative • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture
Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest
Seinnetters Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner
Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance • Southeast
Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners
Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Catcher Boats • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
Valdez Fisheries Development Association

From: [Linda Kruger](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)
Subject: Section 404 permitting
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 6:35:53 AM

Please carefully consider taking over Section 404 permitting from the Federal Government. This is a very expensive program to run and it benefits the State of Alaska to have the Federal Government

pick up the costs and liabilities of operating this program, The State is well served by not having to obligate state

funding to manage this program. The State is having trouble filling vacant positions for programs it is already responsible for..

Taking over this new, added responsibility would exacerbate that problem.

This isn't something the State needs to control. The cost is not worth any perceived benefit.

Thanks for your support.

Linda Kruger

[REDACTED]

Juneau, Alaska 99803

[\[REDACTED\]](#)



April 7, 2023

RE: Request to reject funding for DEC's assumption of the 404 permitting program

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose funding for the Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed takeover of 404 Clean Water Act permitting from the Environmental Protection Agency. Our communities and fisheries deserve the best permitting process possible to protect and sustain our waters and fisheries for both this and future generations and to support responsible development in our state. This program is expensive, complex, and our fisheries are too important to allow for this process to become a political football.

Sincerely,

Alexus Kwachka Kodiak, AK 99615	N Burrows Anchorage, AK 99508	Carol Race Juneau, AK 99801	Mark Niver Wasilla, AK 99654
Linda Rabideau Anchorage, AK 99517	Mark Newman Eagle River, AK 99577	Elizabeth Blankenship Anchorage, AK 99501	James Apone Anchorage, AK 99524
Wayne Pichon Anchorage, AK 99517	evelyn seguela Homer, AK 99603	Peggy Monson Anchorage, AK 99504	Edgar Sundeen Wasilla, AK 99623
Samuel McBeen Tenakee Springs, AK 99841 Becky Long Talkeetna, AK 99676	kathy smith Homer, AK 99603 Karen Walker Juneau, AK 99801	Debra Buzdor Palmer, AK 99645 William LeDoux Wasilla, AK 99654	Kent Barkhau Sitka, AK 99835 Gary Jackinsky Ninilchik, AK 99639
Shirley Moto Wasilla, AK 99687	Adam Cuthriell Girdwood, AK 99587	Judith Acarregui Kodiak, AK 99615	Charles III Bingham Sitka, AK 99835
Kristine Hutchin Eagle River, AK 99577	Maureen Knutsen Naknek, AK 99633	Donald Lawhead Wasilla, AK 99654	George Donart Anchorage, AK 99503
Diana Gamechuk Anchorage, AK 99507	Susan Gibbs Wasilla, AK 99654	Allen Tigert Anchor Point, AK 99556	Carol Kasza Fairbanks, AK 99707
Gary Fournier Juneau, AK 99801	LeRoy Buell Anchorage, AK 99515	Ralph Basner Palmer, AK 99645	Della Coburn Kasaan, AK 99950
Carol Potter Cordova, AK 99574	Art Bloom Tenakee Springs, AK 99841 Charles Yearwood Sitka, AK 99835	Cherime MacFarlane Wasilla, AK 99623 Mary Soltis Sitka, AK 99835	Kathleen Menke Haines, AK 99827 Michael Alverts Palmer, AK 99645
Becky Breeding Chugiak, AK 99567	Gregory Rider Anchorage, AK 99501	Bruce White Sitka, AK 99835	Marian Small Dillingham, AK 99576
Bridget Maryott Homer, AK 99603	Nils Dihle Juneau, AK 99801	Erik Kokborg Cordova, AK 99574	Linda Behnken Sitka, AK 99835
Sommers Cole Juneau, AK 99801	Ken Green Cooper Landing, AK 99572 Pamela Bergeson Juneau, AK 99801	CaSandra Johnson Dillingham, AK 99576 brian mccarthy Anchor Point, AK 99556	Iris Klingler Sitka, AK 99835 Malcolm Wright Dillingham, AK 99576

Vicky Sterling
Anchorage, AK 99507

Mackenzie Smith
Wasilla, AK 99654

Robert Fink
Skagway, AK 99840

Rahn Thomas
Big Lake, AK 99623

Jon Heifetz
Douglas, AK 99824

Dave Cannon
Aniak, AK 99557

Kris Fulton
Sitka, AK 99835

Marvin Willard
Juneau, AK 99801

Waska Gorge
Bethel, AK 99559

Tempy Larew
Palmer, AK 99645

Jesse Nelson
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Theresa Soley
Girdwood, AK 99587

Ryan Astalos
Anchorage, AK 99508

Sue Lillard
Wasilla, AK 99654

Karen Walker
Juneau, AK 99802

Brian McKay
Anchorage, AK 99515

James Pahl
Cordova, AK 99574

jud kirkness
Sitka, AK 99835

Denise Allen
Wasilla, AK 99654

Vicki Duggin
Nikiski, AK 99611

Brandon McGuire
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Doniece Gott

From: betzbonin@everyaction.com
<betzbonin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Betty Bonin

~~1400 Salmon Rd # 100 Anchorage, AK 99503-0570 betzbonin@everyaction.com~~

Doniece Gott

From: woodriverumma@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [REDACTED]
<woodriverumma@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Massa Pat

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: clobel1@everyactioncustom.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Colleen Lobel

Ms. Colleen Lobel, 192125-3121 clobel1@sanam.com

Doniece Gott

From: dolphin@ [REDACTED]
<dolphin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:52 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Gerry Milliken

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: markaniver@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Niver
<markaniver@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr Mark Niver

Doniece Gott

From: salmonandsoul@ [REDACTED]
<salmonandsoul@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:06 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Everett Thompson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: johnyearwood@t [REDACTED]
<johnyearwood@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:27 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Charles Yearwood

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: vbraswell@ [REDACTED]
<vbraswell@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:33 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Vivian Braswell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: wobobr123@[REDACTED]3
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. William Obrien

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: cathyt@ [REDACTED]
<cathyt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Cathleen Teich

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: erebus7@e[REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Henry Eshleman

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: nushagak@ [REDACTED]
<nushagak@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any planning or funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting. This is not good for Alaska and its citizens.

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Deborah Tennyson
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: maureen.knutsen@everyactioncustom.com ~~on behalf of Maureen Knutsen~~
<maureen.knutsen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Naknek in Bristol Bay. I am urging that as you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Maureen Knutsen

~~maureen.knutsen@gmail.com~~
~~maureen.knutsen@gmail.com~~

Doniece Gott

From: drgold@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mary Jo Towne
<drgold@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote against Gov. Dunlevy proposal for DEC'to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

We need to protect our wetlands, rivers and fisheries. I am quite sure the federal government will continue to do better job than an understaffed, underfunded DEC.

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Mary Jo Towne



Doniece Gott

From: betzbonin@~~everyactioncustom.com~~
<betzbonin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 4:40 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Betty Bonin

~~_____~~

Doniece Gott

From: asrosen5@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Andrew Rosen - asrosen5@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. Andrew Rosen



Doniece Gott

From: Karen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: please support funding for libraries

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I'm writing to support the amendment to the operating budget, including a \$635,000 request to be added to the UA budget for libraries. I would have liked to testify in person tomorrow, but must attend another critical meeting at that time.

This funding is critical to allow the UA libraries to support the Alaska Library Catalog, which serves more than 90% of Alaskans in libraries throughout the state. The Catalog provides access to millions of books, audio recordings, archival collections, videos and much more. Alaskans have always worked together to help each other, and Alaskan libraries likewise work together to provide a wealth of content for library users of all ages, through the Alaska Library Catalog.

In addition to the Alaska Library Catalog, this funding provides support for the SLED program, or "Statewide Library Electronic Doorway." SLED includes tutoring for students through Live Homework Help, the Alaska's Digital Archives (unique digitized historical content from around the state,) and a variety of databases with content such as engine repair, K-12 learning, scholarly resources, health information, DIY videos, e-books and so much more. SLED is used by the universities, school districts, researchers, public library patrons, and homeschoolers. SLED's valuable and quality information resources also support the Governor's reading and literacy initiatives.

When you consider the significant reach of SLED and the Alaska Library Catalog across our large state, the funding requested is quite a bargain, with many thousands of Alaskans benefiting from these critical programs. I urge you to support this amendment.

Thank you,

Karen Jensen (she/her)
Director of Libraries
Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks
[REDACTED]
klijensen@alaska.edu

Doniece Gott

From: efmalaska@ [REDACTED]
<efmalaska@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:54 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

Please reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

The State can't afford it and would only result in abuse by the Dunleavy dig-drill-cut anything-goes administration.

Spend your time ending oil industry subsidies rather than helping Dunleavy & Co pillage Alaska's clean water resources.

Sincerely,
Mr. Eric Myers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: Barry Santana <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:14 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: State 404 Primacy

Senate Finance Committee:

It is not reasonable for the State of Alaska to spend our precious resources on an onerous task like 404 wetland permitting. This is a valuable free service provided by the US Federal government for permitting efforts in development projects in the state. The Feds have the skill, experience and momentum for doing this work. The state and it's fresh-hire staff attempting to replicate the effort will be behind the power curve for years; maybe forever. It is also likely that during that time and probably into the future, the work accomplished by state workers could result in frequent and costly lawsuits. More public money spent on legal fees and services.

The currently requested \$5 million dollar budget to hire 32 employees will likely be unsuccessful in attracting a qualified staff. The \$5 million annual budget will probably need to be increased substantially in the future. Also, the required budget will very likely fluctuate wildly from year to year. This will cause chaos in the budgeting process; all in an attempt to spend money on a service free to the state now. I personally worry about the delays in permitting of private wetland projects, waiting in a long line behind high-dollar development projects. It is important to note that only 2 states, Michigan and New Jersey have taken on this responsibility.

Why would Alaska spend public money on this currently free service when we can't adequately maintain our roads, bridges and other public infrastructure? We, as a state, can't even support our K-12 students or a quality university program. This idea of taking on major permitting work is ludicrous!

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The current version of the budget only includes a pitiful \$1.4 million for the Renewable Energy Fund, this is better use of public money and the \$5 million could be directed here, if you don't want to fund education.

Thank you,

Barry W Santana

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: dubay.rene@everyactioncustom.com <dubay.rene@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:38 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms René Dubay

Doniece Gott

From: dzim54@[REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:51 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mr. David Zimmer

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: jodiesideas@ [REDACTED]
<jodiesideas@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:13 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permittin

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Boss Jodie Hazenberg
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: terryms@ [REDACTED]
<terryms@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:15 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. Theresa Slaven

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: magpie1963@[REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:53 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mrs. Betty Lee

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: ~~jaclynreameychristensen@everyactioncustom.com~~
<jaclynreameychristensen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mrs Jaclyn Christensen

~~727 L.L. Way Port Halden, AK 99581~~
~~...~~

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Robert Bergan

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: ~~dakarianderson1@everyactioncustom.com~~ on behalf of Dakari Anderson
<dakarianderson1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:30 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Dakari Anderson

~~Mr. Dakari Anderson~~

Doniece Gott

From: shelly.breinholt@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Michelle Breinholt
<shelly.breinholt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:37 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Michelle Breinholt

Ms. Michelle Breinholt
507-233-8888
507-233-8888

Doniece Gott

From: Doug Woodby <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:46 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget testimony

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask that you increase the funding for renewable energy, specifically the Renewable Energy Fund, and zero out the "404 Primacy" funding for the very bad idea of the state taking over 404 permitting from the EPA.

Our state needs to take the issue of transitioning to renewable energy much more seriously, and the Renewable Energy Fund is a great way to do that. In contrast, the "404 Primacy" funding, if approved, would become a very expensive effort in the future, and is clearly just a move to put the interests of corporations over the needs of Alaskans.

Thank you,

Doug Woodby
Juneau

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 8:49 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Mr. Dan Cannon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: ~~shavelasurfer@everyactioncustom.com~~ <~~shavelasurfer@everyactioncustom.com~~>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:00 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Ms. KARLA JENSEN

~~shavelasurfer@everyactioncustom.com~~
~~shavelasurfer@everyactioncustom.com~~

Doniece Gott

From: Mary Hausler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:04 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Budget testimony

Please increase the funding for the renewable energy fund to at least 5 million dollars and zero out the 404 Primacy Fund. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<libbyroderick@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:18 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Elizabeth Roderick

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<mary.verhoef@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. This is a bad idea that will cost the State of Alaska a lot for services that are now free!

This permitting is a very important process and must be done thoroughly. I am very concerned that the State can take on this large program while already strapped for staffing and resources in many State divisions.

The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries.

We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Do NOT include the amendment for adding Act 404 to the State Budget.

Sincerely,
ms mary verhoef

[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: [REDACTED]
<bmill@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: state budget

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

Greetings,

As a small business owner I have a personal stake in the Alaska economy. I believe that since the downturn in oil prices several years ago the state budget has had enough difficulty to affect the state economy in many ways both direct and indirect. A thriving state requires a healthy budget and that requires income. Oil is an obsolete source for a healthy economy environmentally and fiscally speaking if not already, then very soon. Leadership requires vision for the future and a plan to get there.


I like thinking about what I call the Costa Rican Model. Value your environment and your people. We have what it takes to become a destination for ecotourism, adventure, and scientific research. We already are, however we think of these things as secondary to resource extraction. If we want to preserve what most of the world has already squandered we must start now. We have to build a plan to transition to a sustainable economy today if not sooner.

I suggest a progressive tax is the first step to bolster our state budget. Politically difficult, but essential for long term success. At the same time we must prioritize sustainable energy projects to ween ourselves from fossil fuels. Tough reality, but this is way to the future. Make no mistake; the alternatives will be more painful, and very embarrassing in the long run, and not too distant future.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ben Millstein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From:  [<akkhatton@everyactioncustom.com>](mailto:akkhatton@everyactioncustom.com)
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:57 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

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Sincerely,
Dr. Elizabeth Hatton



Doniece Gott

From: Mrs. Christin Swearingen <mushroomchristin@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please vote to reject any funding associated with DEC's quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

I am a Fairbanks resident and worked as a marine mammal observer in Anchorage. As you work to finalize the operating budget this year, please vote to reject any funding associated with the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) quest to take over the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program from the federal government. The State has attempted to take over the program before but the Legislature wisely refused to fund the program due to the high yearly fiscal cost. Only three states have assumed the program and each state vastly underestimated the financial commitment.

At this point, DEC has requested an appropriation of \$5 million per year to staff up to 32 employees yet state agencies are struggling to fill existing vacancies and retain employees. If the program is not properly staffed and appropriately run it could have devastating effects on our wetlands, salmon rivers and fisheries. DEC has already cut important programs like oil spill response and the ocean rangers program due to lack of funding. Future funding cuts to this important permitting program will inevitably result in the slower issuance of permits and/or the issuance of permits that are not protective of our fisheries. We simply can't afford this program. I urge you to reject any budget amendment that would fund the assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 permitting program.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Christin Swearingen

Doniece Gott

From: john sonin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:55 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: push REF, Pause CCS, & pull 404

April 19, 2023

I urge you to reject any budget funding for fossil fuel-related projects like carbon capture, these projects only serve to extend and expand the life cycle of our fossil fuel revenue reliance in Alaska, our Nation, and across the world.

Over the past decade, the fossil fuel industry has been promoting so-called carbon capture programs with nothing to show for it, and some pipeline transmission disasters that should give pause, maybe full stop, to any revenue forecasting funders barreling down this, as-of-yet, 'pipe dream.' While billed as a climate policy, carbon capture is a mix of failed technologies, is costly while producing more carbon in energy consumption than "capturing," and would extend our reliance on fossil fuels beyond our 'event' horizon. It's no wonder the fossil fuel industry and their embedded politicians support it!

The Federal Government has provided \$17.8 billion in funding CCS and related technologies since 2010, yet studies by the Government Accountability Office and others show that federally funded carbon capture projects have a track record of failure and mismanagement.

In February of 2021, a pipeline carrying compressed carbon dioxide mixed with hydrogen sulfide ruptured, engulfing the small town of Satartia, Mississippi, in a green haze, leaving many residents convulsing, confused, or unconscious. That explosion serves as a vivid warning about the risks posed by what could be the next generation of pipelines to crisscross the US. "It was almost like something you'd see in a zombie movie," Sheriff's Officer Terry Gann prophesized, in a forecast of his own!

Despite having this cautionary prescience, the Inflation Reduction Act provides funding to create over \$300 billion in loans and loan guarantees for a broad category of technologies offering climate acclimation, other than CCS, that are critical to our, and our children's renewable future. Alaska's Renewable Energy portfolio is an investment in their Edenic tomorrow; not the profit-seeker's paradise freely dumping mine waste in the 404 waters of a prevaricating politician's Alaska!

John Stephenson Sonin

Douglas, Alaska