

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<laurastatsdaugherty@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 5:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State DEC should not take over 404 permitting

Dear Alaska Senate Finance Committee,

Do not take over Clean Water Act 404 permitting.  
Allow the Federal Government to continue to assume this process. Not only will it burden our budget, there is a sense this process will be tainted by political pressures.

Leave the permitting process with the Feds.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Laura Stats

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** John Shively <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 7:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy

My name is John Shively. I am currently the CEO and Chair of the Board for the Pebble project. In the past I have been the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources and also worked for NANA in the early stages of the development of the Red Dog mine.

As you consider the state operating budget, I respectfully request that you support the Governor's request to fund the state assuming primacy for the 404 program of the federal Clean Water Act. I firmly believe that state assumption of this program is vitally important if we are to grow our economy.

As you are well aware, we are a natural resource economy and most, if not all, major natural resource projects impact wetlands and thus require a 404 permit. Having those permits processed in-state should vastly improve the efficiency of the process and the reasonableness of the decisions made without diminishing environmental protections.

For instance, putting aside for the moment whether one thinks Pebble is a good or bad idea, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers forced Pebble to develop a mitigation program for the wetlands we would impact at a ratio of about 10 to 1 mitigated acres to disturbed acres. The mitigated acres would have been state lands which would taken off the table for future development. No other project in Alaska has been asked to meet such a high and unreasonable standard although our wetlands are not any different from those at Donlin which had a much lower ratio. If the Pebble standard were applied to future projects in Alaska, many would become uneconomic, despite that fact that well over 90% of the wetlands in Alaska have never been disturbed. Alternative mitigation project such as assisting the Department of Fish and Game with fish rehabilitation projects and assisting villages with sewer and water projects would be far more beneficial to Alaska. We offered both of these and they were rejected.

What was done to Pebble by the federal government in the past can certainly be done to others in the future. The state would take a more rational approach to mitigation.

One last point. I know that there is opposition to the state assuming 404 primacy. However, If you look at the source of much of this opposition it is driven by the same people who oppose Willow, Donlin, the King Cove Road, and numerous other natural resource projects in our state. It is obvious that they know leaving the program in the hands of the federal government gives them extra leverage to stop projects in our state because their well-funded national organizations can exert considerable influence on federal agencies.

Thank you for considering my comments.

John Shively

John Shively  
Chairman and CEO  
707-222-0001

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Carrie Jokiel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 8:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for 404 Primacy

Hello,

I am a small business owner that works in the construction and environmental services industry. I'm also on the Executive Board of AGC Alaska.

I support funding the State primacy of the 404 Program.

Thank you,  
Carrie

**Carrie Jokiel**  
**President**

**ChemTrack Alaska, Inc.**  
*8(a) Woman Owned Small Business*  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Chicken Gold Camp <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:03 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Deantha Crockett  
**Subject:** Clean Water Act 404 Funding

I, along with my wife, daughter and son-in-law, operate a placer mining business in Alaska and a tourism business that is tied to the mining business, We have run both for many years. There is good reason for the State of Alaska to assume responsibility for the Clean Water Act:

The State assumption of 404 will bring stability and predictability to our permitting process. For Alaska's small-scale placer mining operations, this would be a significant improvement. Too often, federal employees come to Alaska and serve in their roles for three years or less, often without understanding of the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts that guide our land management principles, and Alaska's unique environment and characteristics. Alaskan regulators understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state.

Alaska's miners have a long history of paying their way and contributing to the state economy. We are open to an appropriate increase in fees to cover what it costs the state to administer the 404 program, and stand ready to work with ADEC on that fee structure. We also support DEC efforts to pursue and secure federal funding for the program.

The State of Alaska has an excellent track record of managing federal programs, including the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act. We are well equipped to manage the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulation as well, and doing so would bring the regulatory certainty needed to grow investment in resource and community projects, and the Alaska economy.

If primacy is implemented, the State of Alaska will be required to comply with the Clean Water Act 404 program, and standards will be at least as, if not more stringent than the federal regulations.

Please support funding the Clean Water Act 404 program in this budget as it will strengthen the State' regulatory system and attract investment needed to grow the economy as well as foster predictability in the permitting system for existing Alaska mines.

Thank you,

Mike Busby

Mike & Lou Busby  
Chicken Gold Co.  
BS Gold Ventures LTD  
GeoQuest, Inc  
[REDACTED]  
Chicken, Alaska

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Toby Drake <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy Funding

Senate Finance Committee,

I appreciate the committees time and consideration on the issue of State funding for the 404 Primacy funding. Below are some thoughts to consider as the committee members weight the funding and future of how the wetlands permitting is handled in our State.

If primacy is implemented, the State of Alaska will still be required to comply with the Clean Water Act 404 program, therefore, regulatory standards and requirements will be at least (if not more so) as stringent as the federal regulations.

DOT and AGC members are by far the largest users of the 404 Program in the State, as most construction and development projects require a 404 permit. The State assumption of 404 will provide for a more stable, predictable, and timely permitting process. For Alaska's construction operations, this would be a significant improvement, especially now as we gear up for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) projects with strict project timelines and with all the uncertainties in the construction industry (workforce shortages, material costs skyrocketing, supply chain delays). Having the state assume 404 primacy and having Alaskan regulators, who understand the uniqueness of Alaska and its short construction season, at the helm of this regulatory program would be a much-needed breath of fresh air.

This is not just a permit that impacts "big development projects." 43% of Alaska's surface area is wetlands (over 174 million acres). Less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of that acreage has been developed. This means that nearly every construction project in the state (big or small, urban, or rural) will need a 404 permit. Not to mention that virtually every construction project created by the IIJA funds will require a 404 permit. Making it even more important that it is run by Alaskans. This will ensure that **our unique landscape, isolated project locations, diverse geography, and especially our limited construction season would be considered by Alaskan regulators who are familiar with Alaska and can create policies and processes accordingly.**

The State of Alaska has an excellent track record of managing federal programs, including the Clean Water Act's Section 202 and its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act. With this experience, Alaska is well equipped to manage the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulation as well, and doing so would bring the regulatory certainty needed to grow investment in resource and community projects, and the Alaska economy. Not to mention, a state-run program will be more accountable and accessible to Alaskans.

Please support funding the State's Assumption of the Clean Water Act's 404 Permitting Program as it will strengthen the State's regulatory system; provide for a more streamlined, stable, predictable, and timely permitting process; and attract the investment needed to grow our economy.

Thank you again for all your efforts that go towards making Alaska a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Toby



Toby Drake  
Drake Construction, Inc.

[REDACTED]  
Kotzebue, AK 99752  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kevin Brown <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:41 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Alaska state primacy over 404 clean water permits

Please grant the State of Alaska primary responsibility over 404 clean water permitting. This will significantly improve all outcomes. Local control is a bedrock of American freedom and is the right path to protect the environment and especially Alaskans livelihoods.

Very respectfully,  
Kevin Brown

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Formerly:

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK. 99701

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<marymcgaughey@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:38 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,  
Mrs Mary McGaughey

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Michael Rieser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:54 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support for State of Alaska 404 Primacy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for the State of Alaska assuming primacy over the 404 program. I believe this change will increase efficiency for the regulated community and provide financial benefit to the State of Alaska while maintaining or improving environmental protection.

I have worked in permitting at several mining companies, Donlin Gold, Pebble, Teck American, and Teck Alaska. The fields I have worked with the state for permitting include air quality, water discharge, and habitat. Based upon my experiences, I believe Alaska primacy for 404 would provide the following benefits:

- State of Alaska agency staff are very knowledgeable in their respective fields and the geographic area of a proposed project, creating an efficient permitting process in which they can work through a proposed action with the applicant to identify problems and improve the project plan prior to submitting final applications.
- The 404 program is closely related to water quality and habitat protection which the state of Alaska already regulates, and would integrate well with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for larger projects.
- State of Alaska primacy for 404 would result in additional expertise being developed within state agencies and would increase the pool of expertise within the state.
- Policies and regional permits can be tailor-made to needs in Alaska, saving local governments and businesses significant costs.

The assumption of 404 by the state of Alaska would also help address long Federal permit timelines, a problem drawing a lot of national attention. Time is money, and excessively long timelines and uncertainty are detrimental to investment in any project. To remain competitive with other jurisdictions, for example for production of critical minerals required for the Inflation Reduction Act, the State of Alaska must take every opportunity to make the permitting process efficient and effective. I believe assuming primacy will provide such an opportunity, while maintaining a high level of environmental protection.

Best Regards,

Michael Rieser ·  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ramonamontello@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:56 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 Ramona Montello

[REDACTED]

- The University of Alaska Anchorage reinstated their NCAA Division I men's hockey program in August 2021. This reinstatement took place because of an overwhelmingly successful statewide show of support. A fundraising campaign raised \$3 million which saw over 1,200 individual donors and businesses giving to the effort, showcasing extraordinary community and statewide support.
- A new ice arena, on campus, is crucial for the team's success and financial stability. Because the municipality of Anchorage converted the Sullivan Arena to a homeless shelter (Covid Pandemic), there are no suitable facilities for a university hockey program, and indoor ice is at a premium. The existing sports complex, where the team is currently playing, is inadequate to host NCAA Division I games. The team regularly draws sellout crowds but to continue drawing these crowds we need more and better seating for our fans, both students and community members. The current facility seats 640 individuals with standing room for only an additional 100. That doesn't allow all our supporters who gave so generously during our fund-raising campaign to watch their team in person.
- UAA Seawolf hockey is a staple in Anchorage, helping our community thrive for 48 years. Numerous players have gone on to play professionally in the NHL and European leagues. But more importantly, the impact of the program extends far beyond the ice. Many players who came to UAA for hockey have stayed in Anchorage, becoming leaders in the community.
  - Small business owners
  - Emergency responders – fire fighters and law enforcement officers
  - Medical professionals
  - Teachers, counselors, and coaches
  - Community leaders
- The Seawolves give the community an identity. Alumni and current players serve as the "front door" to the University of Alaska Anchorage, driving enrollment through their notoriety and exposure.
- Fewer people are moving to and staying in Alaska. There is a worker shortage. According to the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's Choose Anchorage Initiative, there must be an investment in Anchorage's quality of place to help reverse current outmigration trends and support the retention and attraction of young people. A new arena would add valuable recreation infrastructure to help keep and attract young workers in Alaska. Universities tend to retain their valuable college graduates. By attracting students to UAA, the facility would help build Alaska's educated workforce.
- Our Alaska communities thrive when investments are made to support residents.
- We ask for your support in making this project a reality.
- The 3.1 Million that is requested will allow us to have the engineering and design work completed so that we can begin to solicitate financial support from the business and corporate communities.
- Any questions I am happy to address in person, or via a teleconference. Thank you for your consideration. Kathie Bethard, 907-632-8403

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Heather Nelson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:54 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Clean Water Act 404 Program - Support

Good afternoon, Senate Finance Committee,

I am in support of the Clean Water Act Section 404. After only being in the Alaskan community over the last 3 years, I understand the significance of Alaskan regulators managing this program. The State of Alaska already has an excellent track record of managing federal programs and are well equipped to manage the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulation. With this comes regulatory certainty this is needed to grow investment resource and community projects, and, importantly, the Alaskan economy.

Mining culture and community is something to be valued. Not only is there a long history of contributing to the state economy, but the mines tend to step up and would work with ADEC to work on the fee structure as well as help to provide support to cover these costs.

Bringing more stability and predictability to the process is important not only to our business, the communities, and the state of Alaska. Having the ability for the State of Alaska to set infrastructure permitting priorities, and build resources focused on customer service will improve the ability to deliver quality and timely infrastructure projects that immediately serve the needs of Alaska, and Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmest regards,



Heather Nelson, Community Affairs & HR Supervisor  
Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@hecla.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@hecla.com)

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## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Frans And Kelly Droop <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please support 404 Primacy funding !

Alaska should control our own destiny!

Lifelong Alaskan,

Kelly Droop

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Megs Testarmata <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 1:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** No funding to DEC for Clean Water permit takeover from Feds

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I received the notice about the public hearing and couldn't make. I had a website to send comments and couldn't make it work. My comments I tried to send last week were still sitting on an open webpage that wouldn't work. Thank you for considering them though they arrived too late for public testimony.

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.

Megs Testarmata

[REDACTED]  
Seward, AK 99664  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Michael Fredericks [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:47 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Shenee Williams  
**Subject:** Shiloh Community Resource Center

I am writing to support the SCHI Community Resource Center! I am an Alaska Native business owner in Anchorage, as well as a Board member of Catholic Social Services. Our community needs more resources to assist in the prevention of homelessness. Shiloh has worked hard to gather community support and investment. It makes sense that our legislature support this effort!

**Michael Fredericks**  
Principal + Strategic Engagement

**SALT**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*It is normal for me to take 1-2 days to read, reflect on, and draft my thoughts to emails before responding. This is to ensure that you receive a quality response within a timeframe that honors my existing professional and personal obligations. If you have not heard from me and are in need of an immediate reply, please do not hesitate to request that of me directly or give me a call.*



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** David Heflinger [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 11:55 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State of Alaska Primacy for Clean Water Act

To whom it may concern,

As always primacy should rest with Alaska for Alaskans!  
Primacy may cost more to begin with but it will save money and  
heartache soon after taking control. It may save sanity too.  
We can do this, we do not lack brains just because we live  
in Alaska.

Sincerely,

David Heflinger

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 12:41 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. Mary Johnson

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Rick Van Nieuwenhuysen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 2:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Deantha Crockett  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy

Distinguished Senate Finance Committee Members;

My name is Rick Van Nieuwenhuysen. I moved to Alaska in 1967 and graduated West High School in 1972. I am currently the President and CEO of Contango Ore based in Fairbanks, Alaska. We are developing the Manh Choh Gold project located on Tetlin Tribal Lands near Tok in partnership with Kinross. We are also exploring the Lucky Shot project located near Willow Alaska as well as several other projects around the State. I also founded Trilogy Metals and Valhalla - both developing projects the Ambler Mining District; and NovaGold - Developing the giant Donlin Project in southwest Alaska in partnership with Barrick Gold. As you can appreciate, I have been involved in a number of advanced stage projects in Alaska over a long period of time. All of the projects require extensive permitting. Having the State of Alaska oversee the 404 process would in my opinion be in everyone's best interest. Here are my reasons:

1. If primacy is implemented, the State of Alaska will be required to comply with the Clean Water Act 404 program, and standards will be at least as, if not more stringent than the federal regulations. You should not think of this as some kind of work-around or shortcut to proper permitting.
2. The State assumption of 404 will bring stability and predictability to our permitting process. For Alaska's mining operations, this would be a significant improvement. Too often, federal employees come to Alaska and serve in their roles for three years or less, often without understanding of the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts that guide our land management principles, and Alaska's unique environment and characteristics. Alaskan regulators understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state.
3. The State of Alaska has an excellent track record of managing federal programs, including the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act. We are well equipped to manage the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulation as well, and doing so would bring the regulatory certainty needed to grow investment in resource and community projects, and the Alaska economy.
4. Alaska's miners have a long history of paying their way and contributing to the state economy. We are open to an appropriate increase in fees to cover what it costs the state to administer the 404 program, and stand ready to work with ADEC on that fee structure. We also support DEC efforts to pursue and secure federal funding for the program.
5. If we are going to seriously address climate change and meet our stated objectives of our Net Zero goals by 2030 and 2050, we need to address permitting. Having the 404 program under State leadership and control will support responsible mineral development in Alaska – where we have a demonstrated track record of doing it better than anywhere else in the World.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on funding the Clean Water Act 404 program, as it will strengthen the State's regulatory system and attract the investment needed to grow our economy.

Kind regards,

Rick Van Nieuwenhuysen  
President & CEO



CONTANGO ORE  
Fairbanks AK 99709  
[www.contangoore.com](http://www.contangoore.com)

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<camimark@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 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.

. 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 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. Camilla Dalton

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support Clean Water Act 404 Program

Good afternoon,

I am emailing asking that you please support funding for the State's assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 Program.

I grew up in a mining family and am now working in the family business operating a small placer mining beginning it's 34<sup>th</sup> year of production. I am well versed in both State and Federal permitting processes. On the federal level we've have had to work with people who either don't/have never lived in Alaska or who are fairly new to the state and not familiar with the uniqueness of our environment/remoteness and logistics involved with operating in our state. In addition, Alaska has a very unique legal structure with Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and we're constantly having to educate those people.

The State assumption of the 404 program will not weaken the regulatory oversight. The State of Alaska's program will have to be at least as stringent or more stringent that the federal regulations. The State has successfully done this before with the assumption of the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) now called the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES). Having Alaska assume the 404 program will create some stability and predictability to the process since we will be working with regulators that understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage the environmental protection policy for Alaska.

I also support the States process of trying to secure some federal funding for the program. But, I also know that miners are not seeking a free ride and are open the process of establishing reasonable and appropriate fees to help cover the costs to administer the 404 program.

I ask that you please support funding the State's assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 program. It will strengthen and stabilize Alaska's regulatory system.

Regards,  
Ben Birch

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Shirley McCaa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 4:04 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Clean Water Act 404

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As you deliberate the FY24 Operating budget, please support funding for the State to assume primacy over the Clean Water Act 404 program.

We Alaskans care about our state more than any outsider could ever understand and we are committed to protecting it. Many of us own remote properties for fishing and hunting and we more than anyone want to keep the permitting process local. Alaska's environment and economy would suffer at the hands of outsiders making those decisions for us. Alaskan regulators understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state and we have a fantastic track record doing so.

State assumption of the 404 program will bring stability and predictability to our permitting process. Too often, federal employees come to Alaska and serve in their roles for three years or less, often without an understanding of ANILCA and ANCSA, and other formational laws and policies that guide our land management principles, and Alaska's unique environment and characteristics. Alaskan regulators understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state.

I am convinced the State of Alaska has the capacity to assume this program and do an even better job than the federal government at protecting our environment, just as we have done with the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act.

Many permittees have already stated on the record they are open to an appropriate increase in fees to cover what it costs the state to administer the 404 program, and I stand ready to work with ADEC on that fee structure. We also support State efforts to pursue and secure federal funding for the program.

Please support funding the Clean Water Act 404 program in this budget, as it will strengthen the State's regulatory system and attract the investment needed to grow our economy.

Best regards,

Shirley McCaa



Anchorage Office Administrator  
Mining and Petroleum Training Service (MAPTS)  
Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Extension  
University of Alaska Fairbanks/CES  
219 E Intl Airport Rd. Anchorage, Ak. 99518  
Phone: (907) 786-6413

website: <http://uaf.edu/mapts>  
[www.facebook.com/MAPTSUA](http://www.facebook.com/MAPTSUA)



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ippacor@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 4:21 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 citizen living on Dena'ina lands in Anchorage, and as you work to finalize the operating budget this year, I ask that you 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. Isaac Pacor

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Walter Phillips [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 4:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Management of Section 404, Clean Water Act

As a retired small business owner and placer miner, I believe that State management of the Clean Water Act Section 404 is in the best interest of the State of Alaska and would be helpful in the development of state-wide industries. It would be especially helpful for small projects and family placer miners, like mine was, if we could deal with an agency that is familiar with local conditions.

The State of Alaska has shown that it can successfully manage Federal programs; sometimes, where appropriate, exceeding Federal guidelines. I ask you to please favorably consider moving this additional responsibility to State control. Thank you, Walter Phillips.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<dandrward@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 12:06 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,  
Mrs. Dona Ward

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<caryn@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 1:06 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,  
Mx. Caryn Graves

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 1:33 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.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Lisa Peltola

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<dhuvar@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 2:01 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. Doug Huvar  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<luannmcvey@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 2:22 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 Luann McVey

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** @everyactioncustom.com>  
**To:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 3:52 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,

Clean water is essential to the survival of Alaska's salmon. They are having a hard time, let's not put impure water in their habitat.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Tanner  
Ward Cove, Alaska 99928

Sincerely,  
Ms. Charlotte Tanner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 4:57 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. Talia Lawrence

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ianjs@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 6:00 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. Ian Shelley

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:18 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.

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. E. James Nedeau

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<annsdaughta@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 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.

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. Skywalker Payne

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:16 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.

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. Robert Sargent

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:31 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. Robert Bergan

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<theoconnors@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 6:22 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. Mike OConnor

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** @everyactioncustom.com>  
**To:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 7:22 AM  
**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,  
Mr. Gary Jackinsky

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<christinetburg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 8:12 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. Christine St Pierre

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<don@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 9:19 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. Jane W Barron

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<bibleeogirl@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:30 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. Debra Rehn

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ellyg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 7:23 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. Elly Gregory

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 7:15 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,  
Ms. Vonda Nixon

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ractild@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:10 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. Rachel Tilden

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

9301 Glacier Hwy, Suite 110 • Juneau AK 99801 • (907)463-3488

### Board Members

**John Blasco**

*President*

*Anchorage Distillery LLC*

**Wayne Jensen**

*Past President*

*Jensen Yorba Wall Inc*

**Laura McDonnell**

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**Heather Nelson**

*Hecla Greens Creek Mine*

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**Connie Hulbert**

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**Ray Thibodeau**

*Alaska Marine Lines*

**Travis McCain**

*AK Litho*

**Benjamin Brown**

*Perseverance Theatre*

**Roger Calloway**

*Reliable Transfer*

**Eric Forst**

*Red Dog Saloon*

April 21, 2023

Senate Finance Committee

Re: HB 39 - Primacy funding for 404 permitting

The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce supports the State assuming primacy of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Juneau Chamber has always supported responsible natural resource development, and anything that can be done to improve the permitting process and gain access to our resources is a positive step. To that end, we thank the members of the legislature that signed on to the bipartisan coalition letter sent to our congressional delegation on April 3rd urging efficiencies in the permitting process. We encourage you to take this opportunity to streamline the process by assuming primacy of the 404 program. A State-run program that is accountable to Alaskans and the legislature can and will assure that Alaska has control of its permitting priorities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Blasco".

John Blasco, President  
Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig E. Dahl".

Craig E. Dahl, Government Affairs

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Casey Bain <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 10:32 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Public Comment: 404 Primacy

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the State of Alaska's assumption of primacy over the Clean Water Act 404 program. .

If primacy is implemented, the State of Alaska will be required to comply with the Clean Water Act 404 program, and standards will be at least as, if not more stringent than the federal regulations. The State assumption of 404 will bring stability and predictability to our permitting process. This would be a significant improvement, especially for Alaska's small-scale placer mining operations.

Federal employees often come to Alaska and serve in their roles for three years or less, often without a full understanding of the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Acts that guide our land management principles, and Alaska's unique environment and characteristics. Alaskan regulators, on the other hand, understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state.

The State of Alaska has an excellent track record of managing federal programs, including the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act. We are well equipped to manage the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulation as well, and doing so would bring the regulatory certainty needed to grow investment in resource and community projects, and the Alaska economy.

Moreover, Alaska's miners have a long history of paying their way and contributing to the state economy. I know they are open to an appropriate increase in fees to cover what it costs the state to administer the 404 program, and stand ready to work with ADEC on that fee structure. They also support DEC efforts to pursue and secure federal funding for the program.

In summary, the State of Alaska's assumption of primacy over the Clean Water Act 404 program would provide a more efficient and effective regulatory environment for businesses like mine, and would support the growth of the Alaska economy. I strongly urge you to support this initiative and include funding for it in the FY24 Operating Budget.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Casey Nathan Bain



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Kirk Zerkel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Support of ADEC assumption of Clean Water Act Section 404

Good Afternoon,

I am sending this email to support Gov Dunleavy's proposal for the funding necessary for the ADEC to submit, and ultimately to take on the responsibilities of the Clean Water Act Section 404. I am a business owner based in Palmer Alaska, and employ over 90 individuals in Alaska, all working in the Heavy Civil Construction and Mining Industries.

I have worked alongside both the ADEC and the EPA on several projects, and while both agencies take their role as environmental stewards seriously, of the two only the ADEC has the experience, common sense, and motivation to promote much needed development in the State of Alaska in regards to Section 404 permitting matters. I believe the State should always have primacy in the oversight of its resources and land, it makes little sense to believe a federal agency will regard ALL aspects of our land and resources to the extent that ALASKANS would.

As a lifelong Alaskan and avid outdoorsman raising 3 children in this great State, I would never support this move if I wasn't certain the State will protect and develop its resources responsibly.

Thank you  
Kirk

**Kirk Zerkel | President**  
AAP, LLC

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Graham, Dan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy Discussion - HB39

[Internal]

Dear Senate Finance Committee –

I have been trying to call in to testify on the teleconference line but am having no luck getting through, so will use this method instead.

My name is Dan Graham and I am the General Manager of Donlin Gold. I would like to weigh in on HB39 and the funding line item for the state to assume 404 Primacy. I need to start by making it clear that state primacy will NOT benefit our project at this time as we already have our federal 404 permit in hand since 2018. However, that experience in working with the Corps leads me to understand the need to share with you the benefits a State program can provide as it relates to compensatory mitigation.

The current USACE 404 compensatory mitigation program is a nationwide one-size-fits-all program that was largely designed for helping reverse loss of wetlands in developed watersheds in the lower 48 (primarily the east coast) where watershed impacts may be in the 20-40% loss category from urban development. The intent of a no-net-loss approach was a way of saying those areas can't afford ANY further degradation and any impacts to additional wetlands in those watersheds needs to be offset by improvements to previously impacted wetlands. That makes sense. Further evidence of the intent was the implication of a "1% threshold" – meaning if less than 1% of a watershed's wetlands were impacted, then compensatory mitigation is not required.

Fast forward to today and applying this national policy in Alaska. Somewhere along the line, the 1% threshold has been lost and mitigation can be required for ANY project for ANY amount of impact. That is issue 1. Issue 2 is the insistence that impacts must be offset by improvements to other impacted wetlands within the watershed. As you are all aware, Alaska does not have the level of development that creates such impacts in most watersheds (with the exception of the urban areas of Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau perhaps). This is particularly difficult to comply with in areas of rural Alaska where there are essentially NO past impacts, yet restoration or preservation are being required.

In June of 2018, there was a recognition of this problem by the Corps and EPA and they signed an MOU in which they agreed to work together to find ways of providing approval of alternative compensatory mitigation that may address higher needs than wetland preservation. However, as of 2023, that MOU has been entirely unproductive and no such change has occurred. Hence, the need for ALASKA to take charge and implement a program that works for our great state.

Donlin has been mentioned as an example in presentations by ADEC, and I would like to clarify and expand on that experience. When we looked at providing compensation for our projected project impacts to wetlands, we identified numerous projects in-region that would benefit the land, the people and the wildlife. These are documented in our mitigation plan and include, but are not limited to, fish habitat improvements projects in several previously large mine areas from the early and mid-1900's (before current regulations were in place), assisting villages in improving sewage and waste handling facilities, helping in clean up of relic mine sites like Red Devil, or even helping provide a basic human need like running water in the homes of Crooked Creek, located 13 miles from our project site but has no running water in the resident housing in the community. However, due to restraints by the implementation of the one-size-fits-all nationwide mitigation requirements that mandate acres of wetlands is the only form of compensation allowed, none of these projects met the criteria of "creating significant wetland acres" of the area required and hence were

rejected. Instead, we proposed preserving 6000 acres of undeveloped wetlands which met the nationwide criteria for compensatory mitigation and that plan was approved. It is a valid, defensible form of mitigation under the current rules – but we wish there had been more flexibility in those rules so we could have addressed these other environmental and human health issues.

If you fly into Bethel, look around and you will realize – the Y-K region does not lack wetlands. Much of the area is already contained in federal management areas to protect some of these critical wetlands. What they do lack is basic services, and the monies spent to preserve wetlands would have had a much more meaningful impact to the region if it were allowed to be directed to these other needs. That is the essence of supporting a State control over our 404 program and the compensatory mitigation flexibility it can control and provide.

Please retain the funding in the 2024 operating budget so a staff can be developed and an application filed with EPA to presume control of the CWA 404 requirements in Alaska. It should be noted the EPA is supportive of the primacy concept as well.



Dan Graham, PE | General Manager | Donlin Gold, LLC

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Jesse Carlstrom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen. Forrest Dunbar  
**Subject:** Support for 404 Primacy

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

Greetings from sunny Anchorage!

Please support funding for the State of Alaska to assume primacy of the Clean Water Act 404 program. I believe wetlands permitting decisions would be best made in Alaska by Alaskans.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best,

Jesse



**Jesse Carlstrom** | Sr. Business Development Executive | **TOTE Maritime Alaska, LLC**



Follow Us On



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<halloran.madison@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please reject funding for the DEC takeover of 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:

One great change that you could make to this budget is moving the \$5 million away from the boondoggle that is 404 Primacy, and moving it into the Renewable Energy Fund — a proven winning investment.

Please choose to support Alaskan needs, and not burden us with another failed pet project.

Sincerely,  
ms Madison Halloran

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Clean Water Act Section 404 Assumption Funding

Senators:

I am writing to urge that you support the 404 program funding by the State. This is very important to the integrity of the State permitting program.

The 404 Wetlands program is an integral part of permitting for the Alaska placer mining industry. Adoption of this program by AKDEC would provide consistency, stability, local influence, and that integrity. Too often, federal employees come to Alaska and serve in their roles for three years or less, often without understanding of the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act that guide our lands management principles. Alaska regulators understand the uniqueness of Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state.

The standards of the program will be at least as, if not more stringent than, the federal regulations. The State of Alaska has an excellent track record of managing federal programs, including the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the APDES). We are well equipped to manage the 404 program regulations as well, and doing so would bring the regulatory certainty needed to grow investment in resource and community projects, and the Alaska economy.

Alaska's miners have a long history of paying their way and contributing to the state economy. The industry is open to an increase in fees to cover what it costs the state to administer the program. The industry will work with DEC on the fee structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rich Hughes, PE  
H2T Mine Engineering Services, LLP

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Thomas, Elise N (DOT) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** State Assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 Wetlands Program

**Importance:** High

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Elise Thomas and I'm the Environmental Manager at the Fairbanks International Airport. I testify today in support for the State assuming primacy of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Fairbanks International Airport is a significant economic engine in the Fairbanks area as our operations have resulted in nearly \$70 million in wages and \$30 million in assessed land and building value. Our mission is to provide Interior Alaska a gateway to world with a commitment to superior service and high ethical standards through efficient operation and responsible development.

It is our experience federal regulators do not understand the unique environment and challenges of Alaska. This is evident with the application of homogenous procedures or solutions that are not only inefficient but simply do not work for Alaska, further complicating the process and ultimately deterring private investment.

State assumption of the 404 Wetlands Program will not only result in a timelier permitting process but also allow for a greater flexibility in policies that reflect Alaska's unique circumstances without compromising the current regulatory standards. Our state regulators understand Alaska and can better manage environmental protection policy in our state, which has been demonstrated with other programs like the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES; now the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System APDES), the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Water Drinking Act.

In closing, it is imperative you support the funding of the Clean Water Act 404 program in this budget, as it will strengthen the State's regulatory system and attract the investment needed to grow our economy.

Sincerely,





**Elise N. Thomas**  
Environmental Manager  
Fairbanks International Airport

[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<SANTACL AUS@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:24 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,  
REV SANTA CLAUS

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<javalena@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 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,  
Mrs. Lena Lawhead

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Ken Hall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy support

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska and its people.

I would like to go on record as supporting the State of Alaska in its pursuit of regulatory authority of section 404 of the Clean Water Act which is administered by the Corp of Engineers.

I have lived, worked, played and raised a family in Alaska for over 60 years. I believe that since Alaska is so unique with conditions not found any other place in the lower 49 States, Alaskans are best to manage and regulate its lands and resources.

When the Clean Water Act was passed by Congress it was the intent that the States would assume primacy over the regulatory authority of sections 402 and 404, Alaska assumed authority of section 402 in 2008. The State of Alaska Legislator previously passed legislation that directed the Department of Natural Resources to assume regulatory authority of section 404.

There are considerable benefits for the State to assume primacy of section 404. With the assumption of the section the State will still be required to meet or exceed EPA regulations so there is little chance of a degradation of Alaska's environment. The advantages are that with oversight from the State there is the opportunity to have a more direct line of conversation between an applicant to a 404 dredge and fill permit and the permit authority. There is also the advantage that cannot be understated of compensatory mitigation that the State would recognize options for wetlands mitigation that could be more creative and better suited for some of the unique conditions in Alaska and the vast amounts of permafrost soils. With Alaska agency's as the authority it better allows the State the ability to be in control of its future resource development.

I recognize that there is likely going to be considerable budget pressures this year but there is considerable upside to fund the State application assumption of primacy of section 404 of the Clean Water Act. By assuming regulatory authority by the State there will still be oversight but the process will be much improved and allow streamlining of the permitting process allowing projects and necessary infrastructure to move forward with confidence applications for permits will be reviewed by Alaskan's that are familiar with Alaska conditions in a timely and predictable manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Ken Hall  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<jamesapone@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:48 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. James Apone

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<akpsweaver@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 4:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please reject any funding 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. Pamela Weaver

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<cnrdb@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 5:17 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. Dustin Connor

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<v.duggin@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 5:28 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. Vicki Duggin

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 7:19 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. E. James Nedeau

[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** ~~David Bryan~~ ~~<[REDACTED]>~~ ~~on behalf of David Bryan~~ ~~<[REDACTED]>~~  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 8:58 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 Bryan

~~[REDACTED]~~  
~~[REDACTED]~~

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 2:27 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. Robert Bergan

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
<angelchreestickman@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 3:36 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,  
Mrs. Angel Stickman

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<sockeyebilly@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 4:58 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. William Bothe

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Mike Talerico <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 5:00 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** CWA 404

To whom it may concern, I'm in total favor of CWA 404, I believe we as a state needs to keep control of our state resources and how we govern them in state!! We do not need or want Federal government taking control of our resources or dictating policies and regulations for us. It's our state and we need to take charge of Clean Water Act and keep outside political groups away from controlling our resources and controlling how our state operates!

Thanks

Mike Talerico

Sent from my iPhone

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<ammu@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 5:43 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. Lynne Ammu

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<nunamtapetla@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 6:42 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. Petla Noden

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:32 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. 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 Jamie Shields

[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
<nickc@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:36 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 Nicholas Cassara

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<jannrayg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:40 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. Ray Gellerman

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<racecarol@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:43 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. Carol Race

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:55 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. Susan Esposito

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<jannrayg@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 8:56 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. Ray Gellerman

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<khutchin@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:12 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. Kristine Hutchin

[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Therese Lewandowski <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Budget wrestling

Senate Finance Committee,

As you wrestle with the budget deadline I have to pressure you more.

I have recently read the Renewable Energy Grant Fund may be dinged in your budget. Both SB 33 and HB 62 extending this grant fund received great support testimony.

Please do not reduce the funding for this grant. It seems with federal infrastructure money coming in this is unnecessary.

Also please do not fund or support the state taking over the wetlands permitting process (404). It also seems unnecessary to take this over and have to add funding it to the fragile state budget when the Federal government already covers it.

I would rather see the Renewable Energy Grant fund be fully funded.

Thank you,  
Therese Lewandowski

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tabitha Voeller <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:08 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Community based programs for disabled Alaskans

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Tabitha and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. Thank you for listening and working together to allocate additional funds to critical community-based programs for Alaskans with disabilities. I have worked in this field for almost a year but am also a parent of a child with disabilities and have witnessed the positive impact of home and community services. We are all aware of work force shortages, as well as increasing demand for services. Your support of additional funding to support workforce development and retention is critical for Alaskan relying on these services for their health and well-being.

As a parent these I know that these services are integral to skill building and just as important for the community to interact with disabled people. Both disabled and those who get the opportunity to interact with and serve disabled peoples have the distinct chance to see that disabled individuals are important, unique, and that they have something to offer the community too.

I would also like to acknowledge the individuals who support our disabled loved ones. The support professionals who give their heart and time also deserve competitive and livable wages. Those directly interacting and supporting disabled clients take on great responsibility, often experiencing physical and emotional stress, it is not a job that will make you rich financially, but they do it because they care about people - that should be recognized and rewarded with at the very least a livable wage.

I ask that you please continue to keep a conversation going and encourage other committee officials to think about the importance of disability visibility, acceptance, and inclusion. We are all human and these services afford disabled people opportunity they may not get otherwise.

Thank you for your time and support,  
Tabitha Voeller

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Alaskans share a Vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our Vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

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**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Shina duVall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:26 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Child Care Grant program (CCG)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Shina duVall and my husband and I live and work in Anchorage. We have lived in Alaska for 12 years and we have a 7.5 year old son who is now a student in ASD. As working parents, our son attended Hillcrest Children's Center in Anchorage from 4 months of age until he started Kindergarten at our neighborhood elementary school. We all benefitted from the extraordinary care and early childhood education that he received at Hillcrest.

**Early childhood education and childcare are ESSENTIAL** for children and for working parents. They are also critically important for our community overall. Quality and loving childcare results in well-adjusted and healthy children who are better prepared to learn and grow and contribute to their community as they get older.

Sadly, it is a well known fact that wages in this industry are not adequate or sustainable for the long-term welfare and prosperity of staff and their families. Many childcare providers are living at or below poverty levels, particularly in Alaska where costs of living are significantly higher than many other areas in the U.S.

Like teachers and staff in the public education system, childcare staff are doing the most important work of all - caring for and teaching the next generation. They deserve better wages. Our society desperately needs high-quality, committed, and experienced caregivers and educators for our children. The consequences of any other alternative are dire.

**Please support the proposed increase to the Child Care Grant Program (CCG).**

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Shina duVall

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Malena Marvin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Cc:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Vote yes to fund childcare workers

Hello Senator Stedman and staff,

As a resident of Petersburg I know childcare is an ongoing topic of community concern and that an Assembly-appointed task force meets to discuss how to improve childcare options in our town. As a business owner, I see how lack of childcare can hurt families and workers and ultimately our shared economy. I encourage you to VOTE YES to increase funding to the Childcare Grant Program (CGP) so we can improve pay for essential childcare workers, keep centers open, and increase spots for families.

Funding for CGP has been stagnant even as costs have risen, and our childcare workforce has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Please help us invest in this already established program that we know can help strengthen our families and economy.

Thank you,  
Malena Marvin  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
Schoolhouse Fish Co  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** Marilyn Peter <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 4:23 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Waqaa, Please consider support for my career field to continue to provide

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Waqaa: Hello, My name is Marilyn "Iirpak" Peter and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. Thank you for listening and working together to allocate additional funds to critical community based programs for Alaskans with disabilities. I have worked in this field for 4 years with my agency proudly, and have witnessed the positive impact of home and community services I was able to help provide and give supports. We are all aware of work force shortages, as well as increasing demand for services. Your support of additional funding to support workforce development and retention is critical for Alaskans relying on these services for their health and well-being.

I started my career with my nephew who has autism and has started to receive these services to become independent, and involved more into the community. As a direct support professional, I started to ask my supervisors if there is other individuals I can assist with as full time staff. I am now proudly now a Lead Direct support professional, and I believe and unlimitedly to speak loudly with and for clients, family members, and caregivers to have any fundings for this workforce sincerely.

I do know your time is very busy, and we caregivers in this field are doing the best we can to unite as one voice for the recipients, and families who are waiting to receive, who has limited units, and needing more services.

The agency I am employed with is having a 54<sup>th</sup> Walk for Hope if you'd like to show support in anyway, here's a upcoming soon event I personally would like to invite you all.

Anchorage 54th Walk & Roll for Hope

This year's walk is set for Saturday, May 6, 2023! registration starts at 8:30 am and the Walk starts at 9 am. The Walk & Roll for Hope has decades of support from thousands of Alaskans who gather pledges and walk to bring awareness to disability services in Alaska.

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/54annualwalkroll/>

QUYANA! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! AND YOUR TIME!

**Marilyn Peter**

*"Happy to help continue happy lives!"*

Lead DSP  
Hope Community Resources, Inc.  
540 W International Airport Rd  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518  
Dunbar (907) 771-8944

Alaskans share a Vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our Vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

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**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Rebecca King <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 4:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please prioritize early childhood care and education

Dear Honorable Finance Committee Members,

Apologies if this is a day too late, but I wanted to add my voice calling for more funding for early education and child care. Designing and implementing lessons that teach our young children to be successful in the world is not easy and our competent childcare workers need to be supported. We need people willing to choose this as a career and become trained and experienced. It does not benefit our children to only have people on their way to other jobs. Also, childcare needs to be affordable. If parents stay home with children because they cannot afford childcare, their child misses out on opportunities to socialize and learn to participate in a school-like setting, and we miss out on the parents contributions to the workforce.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca King  
Anchorage, Alaska

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Sarah Hanson Hofstetter <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 5:33 PM  
**To:** Malena Marvin; Sen. Bert Stedman  
**Cc:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Vote yes to fund childcare workers

Hello Senator Stedman and staff,

As a parent and resident of Petersburg I know childcare is an ongoing topic of community concern and that an Assembly-appointed task force meets to discuss how to improve childcare options in our town. I've always thought childcare workers should be paid handsomely so they can feel the value of the work they do for the people they are helping and the kids they are raising up. I encourage you to VOTE YES to increase funding to the Childcare Grant Program (CGP) so we can improve pay for essential childcare workers, keep centers open, and increase spots for families.

Funding for CGP has been stagnant even as costs have risen, and our childcare workforce has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. Please help us invest in this already established program that we know can help strengthen our families and economy.

Thank you  
Sarah C Hofstetter  
[REDACTED]  
Petersburg Ak 99833  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 6:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Participant Directed Care

Committee members:

I am writing in support of the proposal for Participant Directed Care. I am the Grandmother of a youth with a disability waiver. So, I speak with a direct connection to this issue. My family has not had a workable referral for an in-home aide from their agency in 6 months.

This needs to change. With Participant Directed Care my family would be able to directly seek out the type of health care they need without the wait and other complications require of going through an agency. If in-home aid is not available my grandson could end up in a care facility at a higher cost.

The health benefits for a waiver recipient, whether it is a Senior or a Youth, staying in their home are well known. The individual is happier and healthier with their family, in the environment in which they are familiar. If they are happier and healthier their health care costs are less.

And to make a Participant Directed Care type program even better, **it is projected to be less expensive than the current system.**

Therefore, there are two very clear benefits to providing for this option in the budget: **Better for the individual and Better as to cost.**

I encourage you to support this proposal.

Patricia Fisher  
Mat-Su Valley Resident

[REDACTED]  
Wasilla, Ak 99623



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Autumn Amy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:45 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Alaska Legal Services Community Justice Worker Program

Hello, my name is Autumn Smith-Amy and I am a pro bono advocate for Alaska Legal Services Community Justice Worker program. We are a group of volunteers Statewide, who are trained and supervised by Alaska Legal Services to assist the public in Fair Hearing Representation among other critical areas of civil legal representation. The foundation of the Community Justice Worker program is to allow critical access to impoverished and marginalized community members who otherwise would not receive assistance; due to their inability to afford an attorney and because the court does not require the right to an attorney in civil legal issues.

In Mid-February, I visited the Legislature with the Alaska Food Coalition to discuss the SNAP Crisis inclusive of requesting funding to upgrade outdated technology, hiring more staff and IT workers and impressed upon all those visited to embrace long term efforts such as Broad Based Categorical Eligibility and from that visit till now, I have represented and assisted 28 households Statewide in Fair Hearings for their SNAP benefits; resulting in a total of approximately \$122, 132 in delayed benefits in the hands of eligible poverty stricken families, help they would not receive without Alaska Legal Service funding.

Stories from the rural areas during the crisis are of families eating kibble intended for their pets, children eating one meal a day, and adults going without. It is hard to give families in these situations hope, and they are very grateful to have this assistance; trusting that their advocates will steadfastly represent them throughout the process.

In addition, the Community Justice Worker program provides families with representatives and natural leaders from their own communities; inclusive of BIPOC representation and plain language support, which breaks down complex legal terms and systems to the public; in a readily accessible form that they can understand to support their own families in accessing their benefits and addressing their needs and fundamental rights in the future. Alaska Legal Services funds are critical to prevention and often the last resource available to families in times of crisis in protection of their basic needs; continued funding is crucial to continue this added layer of protection for impoverished Alaskan families and children.

--  
Best,

Autumn Smith-Amy  
Owner  
*amy\_consulting and Alaska Relative and Kinship Providers*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*~Please note that it is normal for me to take 2+ days to read my emails and respond in a reflective and thoughtful way. The culture of immediacy is not compatible with the kind of life I lead, where I celebrate work/life balance. Thank you for respecting this balance.~*

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**Doniece Gott**

---

**From:** slreagle@gci.net <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 2:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee; Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** HB 39 SB41 Budget comment

Please do not take on the continuing state expense associated with administering and litigating a 404 primacy program. Currently, the federal program is supported in part by an income tax. Our state's funding is not predictable year to year ... Alaska needs a stable long range fiscal plan in place before taking on this long term obligation. Obviously, from the testimony you are hearing, there are so many more urgent and immediate needs of the people of our state that we are unable to afford. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Steven Winker Juneau AK

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



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Kodiak Brown Bear Center**

**EX OFFICIO  
Anthony Gillam  
Premier Alaska Tours  
Holly Johnson  
Wings Airways & Taku Glacier Lodge**

April 21, 2023

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) wishes to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the FY 24 operating and capital budgets. We would like to reiterate the importance of the request for \$5 million for FY 24 that was included in Governor Dunleavy's budget. The investment made by the State to the destination marketing campaign, Travel Alaska, pays off in spades with approximately \$130 million in general funds to the treasury and a \$4.5 billion in return to Alaska in total economic output from the tourism industry annually. We greatly appreciate the need to balance competing needs and respectfully ask you maintain the full amount of \$5 million in the Operating Budget you advance from committee.

Funds spent in the national and international travel marketplace generate huge returns for Alaskans. According to a recent [report](#) produced by McKinley Research, visitors to our state during the summer of 2019 spent \$2.79 billion directly with Alaska businesses. Labor income was \$1.11 billion representing over 35,000 jobs. The State and municipalities received over \$243 million alone in bed taxes, sales taxes, docking fees, fishing licenses, AMHS tickets, Alaska Railroad tickets, vehicle rental taxes, and more.

This investment is necessary to generate these returns for Alaska. Other states and international destinations are spending tens of millions each year to keep their brand in front of consumers. With your past support we have managed to help the tourism sector start recovering from COVID and are seeing incremental gains, but those gains are from past investments and funds in this year's budget are to market ahead of the 2025 season.

Once visitors arrive in Alaska, ATIA's 600 member businesses and regional partner destination marketing organizations are working hard to provide quality experiences for them. Please maintain the Governor's level of funding for tourism marketing of \$5 million to ATIA to fund Travel Alaska so that we can continue to position Alaska for success in 2025.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hall and Dennis McDonnell  
ATIA Government Relations co-chairs

Alaska Travel Industry Association  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Farah Sears <Farah\_Sears@ykhc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on House Bill 39 – The Operating Budget

Senators,

My name is Farah Sears, I am a family nurse practitioner at YKHC and I have lived and worked in Bethel, Alaska for more than 3 years. I am the medical provider that performs medical exams on children that come to the Child Advocacy Center for forensic interviews following sexual or physical abuse or are witnesses to domestic violence or other crimes.

I'd like to start by thanking the committee members for your time today. I'm testifying for the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's budget in the Department of Public safety—specifically to services for victims.

I'm asking for you to fully fund the request for victim service programs in the State of Alaska.

I am one of the leaders of the medical sexual assault team and the child maltreatment team for the YK delta. In this role I work closely with TWC, CAC, AST, BPD, OCS, the DA's office and other agencies. When we have a call out for a SA or Child Abuse, advocates sit at the table with law enforcement, medical and the survivor and I call them the glue of the MDT. They help the survivor and their family through the legal process and are a constant in their lives until the case is completely through the system providing them countless resources. In addition, TWC provides shelter for women and children to allow them a safe place to rebuild their lives after violence.

All of the agencies I just mentioned never have to worry about their funding, but TWC/CAC constantly have to worry that their funding will either be decreased, or not increased while all of their costs continue to increase.

I'd like you to ask that DV/SA programs are fully funded. Funding hasn't increased for them in years and with the rate of inflation, no increase is actually a decrease and means that programs can do less.

Thank you for your time today.

Thank you,

**Farah Sears MSN, FNP, SANE-A, SANE-P**  
*Assistant Medical Director of CMT, SART and STAR Clinic*  
*CMT – Child Maltreatment Team*  
*SART – Sexual Assault Response Team*  
*STAR – Surviving and Thriving while At Risk*  
**Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation**

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**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Joey zhong <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 3:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** My story with Head Start

Hi  
My name is Chunmei Zhong, I'm a coach of Kids' Corp, Inc.  
I moved Alaska 3 years ago, and before I work with KCI, I didn't know anything about Head Start. I was a teacher for 10 years, so I know how important teachers, schools/agencies care about their families and children. After I work here, I had strong belonging feel to this agency.  
I tell all of my friends about what we are doing, if they don't know about HeadStart they think we are just a daycare, but I told them that we are not a daycare, we provide support to all the families and children, we care about their growth, we care about their family situation, we provide developmental screening and provide individual support if needed. We tried our best to help families and children get ready for school.  
So we want to keep Head Start strong, we want to continue provide service to families and children, so please finance support Head Start, and keep let us support the community.

Sincerely  
Chunmei Zhong



February 21, 2023

**Dear Senate Finance Committee**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public testimony on the Operating Budget.

By way of introduction, the **Independent Living Network (IL Network)** member organizations – Access Alaska, Arctic Access, Independent Living Center (ILC) and Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)— provide vitally important services to seniors, people with disabilities, their families and their communities. Through our assistance and support, individuals with disabilities can identify and obtain needed services in an effort to age in place in their own home as opposed to living in much more costly and restrictive institutional settings. The IL Network partners with the **Dept. of Health’s Division of Senior & Disabilities Services (SDS)** via **SDS Community-Based Grants** to promote the total integration of people who experience a disability and Alaskan seniors to live as independently as possible in the community of their choice. In FY22, the ILN helped transition and divert 95 people from nursing homes to home and community based settings, saving more than \$14 million in public funds. The ILN is a great bang for the buck!

We are all **Centers for Independent Living (CILs)**, which are private, nonprofit, consumer-controlled organizations that provide independent living services to Alaskans experiencing a barrier to functional independence living in their home or communities. A majority of our staff and our governing boards are people who experience a disability. After a decade of flat funding, a bipartisan majority of legislators voted last session to support a \$1.5 million inflation adjustment increment to be spread between Centers for Independent Living and other SDS community-based grants senior service providers. Governor Dunleavy included this increment in his proposed FY24 budget. We ask your support of this line item.

Please contact me at 888-487-0987 or [jokeefe@sailinc.org](mailto:jokeefe@sailinc.org) with any questions and thank you for your service to Alaska.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan O'Keefe". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joan O'Keefe  
Executive Director

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Tony Johansen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 5:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 2024 Budget

Honorable Senators:

Four years ago I wrote to you with my concerns about Governor Dunleavy's draconian vetoes to Alaska's educational system's budget and asked that you override those vetoes. I was concerned that absent an override of the vetoes Alaskans' quality of life would suffer, our children's education would suffer, and educated people with the ability to grow and to enrich our State would stream to the lower 48, as would our youth.

The vetoes were not overridden, and Alaskans received their payment from the Permanent Fund in exchange for their vote for Dunleavy's next gubernatorial campaign. Educated people, well-trained skilled workers and our children left and continue to leave Alaska. Have you tried to make an appointment with a doctor lately? If you want to see a dermatologist in Fairbanks today, you are looking at a 3 or 4 month wait. My company, Great Northwest, Inc., is not bidding on some public work projects, because Alaska is not attracting the skilled workers required to perform the work. During my 47 years in the Alaskan construction industry, I have never passed on projects for lack of labor.

Today you have an opportunity to stem this flow of Alaskans to the lower 48. I am asking you once again to zero out the Permanent Fund Dividend and to direct those dollars toward education, capital projects that strengthen our economy and other necessary government services. Some people are dependent on their dividend payment for necessities. Send those people and money from the Permanent Fund to the State of Alaska Department of Health to address their concerns.

Sincerely,  
Anton K. Johansen  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

## **Doniece Gott**

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**From:** Dixie D. Banner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 21, 2023 6:40 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Cc:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Click Bishop; Senate Finance Committee; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mike Shower; Costello Sen. Mia; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Gary Stevens; Senator.peter.micichicee@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** No WAY - This agenda is Totally Out of Line

We have asked for the past 10 years to CUT the Budget and Downsize Government! Why is you all refuse to listen? Alaska is being destroyed then expect our kids to pay for miss management! This concept of a tax is totally outline and demonstrates your failure- no tax should implemented until you audit and cut expenses!

You all promised during the election you would respect our wishes and creat positive change particularly since we have been experiencing a 10 year recession! Wake Up and hit reality! When elected you took the oath to protect our constitution and the resources of AK and that includes the future of children!

Thank You



## Doniece Gott

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**From:** Katrina Letner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony Head Start

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Katrina Ahlfield. Head Start has been an integral part of my life. As a former head start child and parent and a current employee of 17 years for an Anchorage based head start program I have witnessed and experienced first hand the positive impacts head start makes.

Head Start was foundational for me. Head Start instilled a love of learning in me that has carried on through my life. Head Start provided a safe place for me to learn and grow, try new things, grow in my confidence and ability. Head Start has made me a better parent and a better human. I owe so much of my own success to the Head Start program.

Head Start is unique, offering comprehensive services to both children and families. Head Start serves more than 2,000 children in Alaska in communities all over our great state. Many head starts serving rural communities are the only child family support program that exists there.

Head Start is high quality. There are more than 1500 built in accountability measures known as Head Start Performance Standards. Head Start's are also heavily monitored to ensure quality. This is provided by the federal government and doesn't cost Alaska a penny. Head Start's bring more than 50 million federal dollars to our state.

I'm asking you to support a 5 million increase to Alaska Head Start programs so they can remain sustainable. There has not been an increase to Head Start since 2010. To ensure sustainability we need you to act. It would be unwise for our state to watch Head Start programs cease to exist and then need to replace those programs completely with state dollars. Your support for Alaska children and families, many who are our most vulnerable is crucial.

Please make sure Head Start receives the 5 million increase this year.

Thank you.

Katrina Ahlfield  
[REDACTED]  
Wasilla, AK 99654

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<eagledancer@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 11:30 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.

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,  
Dr. Inez Larsen

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<khutchin@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:12 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. Kristine Hutchin

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<debihojda@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:19 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. Debora Hojda

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Doniece Gott

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**From:** C.R.Dick Hammond [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 11:03 AM  
**To:** Senate Finance Committee  
**Subject:** 404 Primacy funding

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members,

My name is Dick Hammond. I live in Chicken, AK and have been placer mining in the Fortymile mining district for 50 years.

I am also currently the President of the Fortymile Mining District, which represents many small family mining operations here in the Fortymile.

I am writing today to urge the Committee members to support funding for the State of Alaska to assume primacy of the Clean Water Act 404 program.

One of the most important aspects of any business is stability in regulations and the enforcement of those regulations. The State assuming primacy would bring needed stability to the 404 program for the small family mining operations.

As an example, in my years of mining here I have seen, and had to deal, with a minimum of 25 different Federal BLM compliance personnel interpreting and enforcing regulations. Nothing is more frustrating than the mercurial nature of regulation interpretation!

Alaska has proven that it is more than capable of assuming these tasks. In the State taking over primacy of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is now the APDES, we have seen a more stable program and a greater working relationship between the governing agency and the mining operations.

We look forward to having that same relationship with the new 404 State program!

Thank you for your time.

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2023 5:56 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. MICHAEL TUOHEY

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 9:54 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. William O'Brien

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<stschueth@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:00 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,  
Mr. Steve Schueth

[REDACTED]



**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<stschueth@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:00 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,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Steve Schueth

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:03 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,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. William O'Brien

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:24 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. Linda Holt

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 10:24 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

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Linda Holt

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:03 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

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Steve Gray

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<kicabcm@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:24 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,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Kicab Castaneda-Mendez

[REDACTED]

**Doniece Gott**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
<togiakrose@everyactioncustom.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 22, 2023 11:48 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. Rose Wassillie

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]