

Testimony by Michael L. Jones
Resident, Homer
Opposing SB 48
May 8, 2023

SB 48 is a non-transparent, rushed scheme based on false assumptions that has not sufficiently considered all the unintended consequences of its implementation.

The seven other members of the public who provided oral testimony today describe several flaws in this bill. Given the delays in both sessions today which hindered efficient public participation, I'll only focus on one small component that perhaps exemplifies how rushed the Carbon Offset Program legislation is.

In DNR's verbal testimony in today's morning Senate Finance Committee Meeting, DNR's Commissioner Designee, John Boyle, described

In the DNR report to the Senate Finance Committee presentation dated May 8, 2023 it states:¹

State Forests are likely primary objectives due to high carbon storage potential.

The ANEW Alaska DNR Carbon Offset Opportunity Evaluation August 2022 Report states that timber harvested for lumber is a carbon source rather than stored carbon:²

How humans use forests determines whether they are a carbon source (timber harvesting) or a carbon sink (growth and preservation).

Yet, the United States Department of Agriculture states that using wood based products (i.e. lumber) is an effective means of storing carbon:³

When people [use wood-based products](#) in place of fossil fuel-intensive products — like steel, concrete, or plastic — there is a permanent benefit to our atmospheric home. For instance, buildings [framed in wood](#) (PDF, 189 KB) release 26 percent less carbon than steel-framed buildings and 31 percent less than concrete-framed buildings. Similarly, when people install wood floors instead of vinyl flooring, carbon emissions can be as much as 20 times lower.

Simply put, by building with wood, we're opting to store additional carbon in everyday products and buildings. If a wood house stands for 150 years, it will store carbon until it decays or is replaced. In that time, the forest will have regrown resulting in additional carbon storage.

¹ SB 48 DNR Presentation to Senate Finance Committee 5-8-2023.pdf

² SB 48 Anew - Alaska DNR Carbon Offset Opportunity Evaluation August 2022 Report.pdf

³ <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2019/10/07/wood-product-and-carbon-connection>

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Additionally, the DNR report to the Senate Finance Committee presentation dated May 8, 2023 states that SB 48 does not “Lock up Land”. However, SB 48 allows for leases and carbon offset project terms to be as long as 55 years.

There was plenty of testimony by supporters of this bill today that described how the forests would be managed better as a result of this effort, yet one has to ask, “If the DNR knows how to improve forest management to reduce wildfire risk, why aren’t they doing so now? Are we removing dead and dying trees due to beetle infestation or thinning the forest to improve the health of the remaining trees? Are we immediately logging wildfire damaged areas and planting new seedlings?” Perhaps DNR is doing a great job of managing the forests, though the conversation didn’t really point to that.

The bias of discussion on this bill seems to be “yes, some trees will be cut, but the carbon economics are improved if we don’t cut”.

So, it seems like an unintended consequence of this legislation is that it will result in locking up the land to prevent timber harvesting, even if harvesting the timber was the best method to manage the safety and health of the forest (for wildfire prevention, for example).

The large number of amendments, versions, changes and questions in this morning’s and this afternoon’s Senate Finance Committee sessions are all evidence of the unnecessary rush to enact this as law. I oppose this bill.

Doniece Gott

From: Mark Edens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 1:41 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: I oppose SB48

I am Mark Edens from district 6. I represent myself. I oppose SB 48. Much more research should be done concerning other uses of the land and water. I am very concerned over government control and unintended consequences with long term leases. This will affect logging, commercial fishing near kelp beds, mining, etc.
There's way too many questions. The vote should be months from now. This should not be fast tracked!
Thank you

Doniece Gott

From: Brenda - Mark Edens <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 1:34 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB48

My name is Brenda Edens from Homer Alaska. I oppose SB 48. Upon reading the updated bill from May 5 and listening to this morning's discussion I oppose SB 48 until clarity and transparency is made in all amendments, the procurement process (exemptions), etc. I asked that this bill is not fast tracked. I oppose SB 48.

Thank you,
Brenda Edens

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Delayna Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 8:54 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Question on SB 48

My name is Delayna West. From district 6 I would like to ask you a question.
Where is the procurement process from DNR, if they want exemptions from the picture omit policy the state has a right to know?
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: slreagle@gci.net <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, May 08, 2023 10:36 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 48 - Carbon Offset Program on State Land

“...In 2018, Sealaska’s carbon-offset project became the first in Alaska to be issued carbon-offset credits through **California’s cap-and-trade program**. ...” I am surprised their program does not come up in discussions. How does DNR’s compare with what Sealaska is doing?

With the comment that DNR finds no carbon-offset difference between old growth & clearcut areas. I hope this doesn’t mean merchantable old growth tracts identified to be part of the carbon offset program will not be subject to the “expedited timber sale process” to maximize value....

[Sealaska Forests Provide Benefits Through Carbon Project – Sealaska Sealaska Corporation announces multimillion dollar deal to keep trees in the ground \(ktoo.org\)](#)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Doniece Gott

From: James Duffield <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2023 9:39 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Carbon credits bill

Please stop the madness and kill the carbon credits bill. It will not help Alaska residents and it will devastate our economy.

Sent from my iPhone
Jim Duffield

Doniece Gott

From: Renee Eidem <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 07, 2023 10:50 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: HB48

Dear Committee:

Have you done your research, and if so, where are the results on how this will affect AK in the future? In other words, where are the procurement documents explaining the process the DNR is seeking if they want exemptions from the States current procurement policy? Why do they need the current policy changed to get the results they desire? Is it possibly because there is something nefarious going on here?

Thank you for your time,

Renee Eidem
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Homer AK 99603
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