
From: Richard Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2023 1:24 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Support for HB 83

To: House Finance Committee members:

Please consider my testimony below in support of passing HB 83. Thank you.

Richard H. Bishop

Sent from my iPad

Subject: CACFA testimony

My name is Richard Bishop. My principal residence since 1961 has been the Fairbanks area, but I have lived in McGrath and at Lake Minchumina, and worked briefly at Gambell in 1962. I am a wildlife biologist by training, retired from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. During my employment I was assigned to work on ANILCA in Washington DC. After retirement I worked for the Alaska Outdoor Council. I lobbied some at the Alaska Legislature, including on ANILCA, and as a member of Governor Hickel's subsistence advisory committee. I wrote the first draft of the "findings" for his subsistence law.

I strongly support HB83. During its previous life I paid close attention to CACFA's work. After retirement I more actively participated in following its work and sometimes testifying on issues before it. CACFA was diligent and evenhanded in providing a forum for public input on issues of federal management arising from ANCSA and ANILCA. It actively sought information from federal land and fish and wildlife managers, analyzed situations, and reported its findings and recommendations to the public, state and federal agencies, and Alaska state government. In a sense it was an independent "think tank" not bound by the politics of the moment or the existing policies and regulations of state or federal agencies. CACFA provided the means for fresh public input and "fresh air" on policy and regulation by agencies. Its recommendations were logical, practical, and focused on government serving the people, rather than the reverse.

I heard the reverse at one meeting. After a long unproductive discussion about a frustrating situation, a federal employee said, "Well, we have these regulations and we just have to make them work!" Not a peep about changing or improving the regulations to eliminate the problem!

That scenario alone exemplified the value of CACFA for Alaskans.

Please pass HB83. Thank you for considering my perspective.

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