

S B

4 6 4



**TOK  
RV  
VILLAGE**

(907) 883-3877  
Mile 1313.4 Alaska Highway  
P. O. Box 741 Tok, Alaska 99760

To: Senate Resources Committee  
Senate Finance Committee

4-14-92

Subject: SB 464

We strongly oppose Senate Bill #464, specifically "enroute campsites" and authority to sell merchandise.

"Enroute Campsites" would be in direct competition with approximately 110 private campgrounds in the State of Alaska. Private campgrounds have a minimum investment of at least \$22,000,000. In addition to the future of the private campground industry we must consider the adverse effect "enroute campsites" would have indirectly. Private campgrounds employ seasonal employees and use services provided by power companies, fuel companies, refuse, hardware and supply companies and numerous tourism related companies.

By encouraging potential campers to use the "enroute campsites" the State will be taking away revenues from entire communities.

We urge you to stop this legislation and support Alaska Campground Owners Association's efforts in the placement of "No Overnight Camping" signs in highway pull-offs.

Sincerely,

*Linda Jernigan*  
Linda Jernigan  
Secretary

cc: Linda Anderson/Alaska Campground Owners Assoc.  
Commissioner DOTPF, Turpin  
Paul Fuhs, Governor's Liason



# ALASKA CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 84884 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708 • (907) 474-0286

## Board Officers

President  
Linda Anderson  
Kings Edge RV  
Fairbanks

Vice President  
Bill Wyatt  
Bear Paw RV  
Valdez

Secretary-Treasurer  
Linda Serulgan  
Tot RV Village  
Tok

## Regional Board Directors

Anchorage  
Rick Barrier  
Cocon Nugget RV Park  
Anchorage

Interior Region  
Jack Ribland  
Denali Grizzly RV  
Denali Park

Mid-Si Region  
Red Starr  
Mountain View RV  
Palmer

Copper River Region  
Jeff Saxe  
Eagle Claw RV  
Valdez

Southeast Region  
Gary Hartranft  
Eagle Camper Park  
Haines

Kana Peninsula Region  
Jack Sheldon  
Hyle's Camper Park  
Ninilchik

Senator Lloyd Jones, Chairman  
Senate Resources Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 14, 1992

Subject: SB 464 by the Senate Resources Committee "An Act relating to the collection of fees for certain state park services and materials.."

Dear Senator Jones:

The Alaska Campground Owner's Association was organized in 1989 and includes 36 private park owners from Southeast Alaska to the Dalton Highway. Resolution 92-1(attached) describes our desired relationship with the State Div. of Parks and recognizes the importance of both the State and private sector in providing park services and campgrounds to Alaska's residents and visitors. To date, we know of at least 110 privately owned parks in Alaska.

It has come to our attention that SB 464 (and provisions of HB574) appear to be in direct conflict with an earlier position taken by DOTPF Commissioner Turpin at the ACOA Annual Meeting held in Palmer in October of 1991. The Commissioner attended our meeting and responded favorably to our request which was to place "No Overnight Camping" signs at highway pull-offs being used as overnight campsites by Alaska's visitors. It was recognized that these pull-offs are not suitable for overnight camping based on the requirements of Alaska's health, sanitation, and plumbing codes and was detrimental to the current state and private park facilities.

We are adamantly opposed to the definition language establishing these same pull-offs as "campsites". Further we believe the language allows the State to not apply the same health, sanitation, and plumbing codes to these State pull-offs when permitting overnight camping as is required, at great expense, of the private sector.

Additionally, we do not believe the Division of Parks should have the authority to sell merchandise. DNR currently has the authority to permit concessionaires to offer this service.

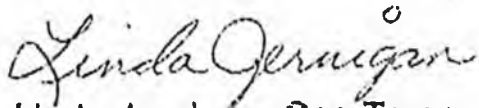
It was our understanding that the Commissioner had agreed to our request for placement of "No Overnight Camping Signs" at these highway pull-offs when we brought the problem to his attention.

Page Two  
Senator Jones  
April 14, 1992

We are now completely shocked and confused as to the State's conflicting positions in this matter. We are also extremely dismayed at the State's apparent lack of support for Alaska's private campground industry and the personal investments and services provided by many Alaskan's who are struggling to establish small businesses in the state.

Please do what you can to stop this legislation and direct the Commissioner of DOTPF to work with the ACOA in the placement of "No Overnight Camping" signs in problem areas as well as the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide enforcement by the State Troopers while on their regular highway routes. The ACOA stands ready to offer their time and labor in the installation of these signs.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Jernigan, Sec-Treas  
ACOA

cc: Commissioner DOTPF  
Commissioner Public Safety  
Neil Johansen, Dir. of Parks, DNR  
Paul Fuhs, Governor's Liaison

---

# ALASKA CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 84884 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • (907) 474-0286

## Board Officers

President

Linda Anderson  
Rivers Edge RV  
Fairbanks

Vice President

Bill Devon  
Potlatche  
Trapper Creek

Secretary

Dan Strouse  
Homestead RV Park  
Palmer

Treasurer

Linda Jernigan  
Tok RV Village  
Tok

## Regional Board Directors

Anchorage

Rick Bartler  
Tulcan Nugget RV Park  
Anchorage

Interior

Jack Reiland  
Denali Grizzly RV  
Denali Park

Mat-Su

Red Starr  
Mountain View RV  
Palmer

Copper River

Bill Wyatt  
Bear Paw RV Park  
Valdez

Southeast

Carlens Hoover  
Hoover's RV  
Skagway

Kenai

Jack Sheldon  
Hylan's Campground  
Kenai

## Resolution 92-1

WHEREAS the tourism industry in Alaska has developed and evolved consistently over the years creating demand for additional campgrounds, and

WHEREAS the private sector has responded to meet the need for more campgrounds, and

WHEREAS the state economy has benefitted from the expansion of the tourism industry and creation of more private campgrounds, and

WHEREAS in the past 10 years the private sector has proven itself ready, willing, and able to meet any demand for additional campgrounds, especially in or near road connected communities or where existing private campgrounds are located, and

WHEREAS the state should not compete with the private sector as a general rule, especially in instances where the private sector has demonstrated the willingness and ability to meet the demand for certain services,

WHEREAS the state shall be encouraged to refrain from building or expanding existing state campgrounds in areas of a 50 mile radius to where the private sector provides campground services or can reasonably be expected to provide campground services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks system be encouraged to concentrate any proposed park development and improvements in more remote areas with primitive type accommodations rather than electrical, water and sewer hook-ups.

Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor; the Honorable Jack Coghill, Lt. Governor; DNR Commissioner Harold Heinze; Chief of Staff, Max Hodel; OMB Director, Shelby Stasby; DEC Commissioner, John Saylor; DOTPF Commissioner, Frank Turpin



# TOK RV VILLAGE

(907) 883-5877  
Mile 1313.4 Alaska Highway  
P. O. Box 741 Tok, Alaska 99780

To: Senate Resources Committee  
Senate Finance Committee

4-14-92

Subject: SB 464

We strongly oppose Senate Bill #464, specifically "enroute campsites" and authority to sell merchandise.

"Enroute Campsites" would be in direct competition with approximately 110 private campgrounds in the State of Alaska. Private campgrounds have a minimum investment of at least \$22,000,000. In addition to the future of the private campground industry we must consider the adverse effect "enroute campsites" would have indirectly. Private campgrounds employ seasonal employees and use services provided by power companies, fuel companies, refuse, hardware and supply companies and numerous tourism related companies.

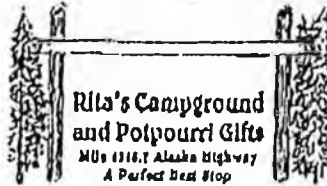
By encouraging potential campers to use the "enroute campsites" the State will be taking away revenues from entire communities.

We urge you to stop this legislation and support Alaska Campground Owners Association's efforts in the placement of "No Overnight Camping" signs in highway pull-offs.

Sincerely,

*Linda Jernigan*  
Linda Jernigan  
Secretary

cc: Linda Anderson/Alaska Campground Owners Assoc.  
Commissioner DOTPF, Turpin  
Paul Fuhs, Governor's Liason



TO: SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

4/15/92

We are in strong opposition of SB 464, particularly enroute campsites and concessions.

We are PIONEERS in the campground business and built the FIRST privately owned campground in the State of Alaska (TERRITORIAL DAYS). We know how businesses have had to struggle to maintain the standards to which the traveling public demands. Private campgrounds spend a great deal of money to maintain an attractive business and support many other businesses as well.

The maintenance of "enroute campsites" will surely increase the need for additional State employees, whether it be DOT or Division of Parks & Rec. personnel. At a time of budget cuts this does not seem cost effective.

As a Charter Member of the Alaska Campground Owners Assoc. we urge you to post "No Overnight Camping" signs in highway pullouts.

Lets keep Alaska beautiful!

Pioneers of Alaska,

.. RITA'S CAMPGROUND & POTPOURRI GIFTS

*Douglas V Ewers*

DOUG & RITA EUERS  
P.O. Box 599  
Tok, Alaska 99780  
883-4342

cc: Lt. Gov. Jack Coghill  
Commissioner DOT, Frank Turpin  
Alaska Campground Owners Assoc. Pres. Linda Anderson

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

3601 C STREET, SUITE 1200  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
PHONE: (907) 762-2600

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 107001  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7001

February 5, 1992

Honorable Lloyd Jones  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Jones

Looking toward a future when Alaska's oil and gas revenues will be substantially less than today, we have been developing strategies for putting the state park system on a more secure footing. We have built the largest volunteer program in the state, collect nearly 20 percent of our budget from campground and other fees, and have agreements providing for prison inmate labor in parks.

The enclosed draft bill authorizes the state park system to collect additional user fees, and makes those funds available for reappropriation by the legislature to meet park maintenance and operational needs. We have been very successful in implementing the fee program originally authorized in 1988. This draft legislation would add new categories of user fees, with the most significant being for developed facilities constructed for day use activities.

Our 132 state parks supported six million visits last year, with the majority being day users - picnicking, fishing, visitor centers, hiking. State facilities and operating costs associated with day use activities are very expensive. In fact, the majority of the park operating budget can be attributed to day use activities.

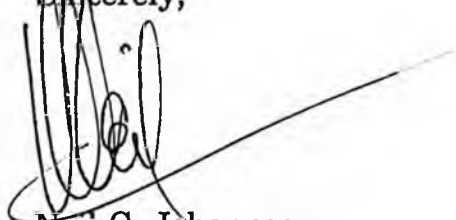
Alaska has one of the very few state park systems in America without park day use fees. Yet we've demonstrated that a conservative and carefully crafted fee program can enjoy public support, improve public safety, reduce vandalism, and generate substantial funds for the system's maintenance and upkeep. These new fees would also be a means of enlisting the support of nonresident tourists, who ordinarily

Page two  
February 5, 1992

contribute little to state government while consuming its services. We estimate that nonresidents accounted for approximately 33 percent of the fee revenues collected in FY91. One in four state park users is a tourist.

I hope you will consider sponsoring this important initiative. I am enclosing supporting materials and am available to discuss other aspects of the draft at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration. The staff person assisting me with this program is Dave Stephens, 762-2653.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil C. Johannsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil C. Johannsen  
Director

cc: Harold C. Heinze  
Commissioner

Enclosures

\_\_\_\_\_ BILL \_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred: \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL  
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to park user fees and donations to the state park system; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

\*Section 1. AS 41.21.026 is amended to read:

Sec. 41.21.026. Fees for the use of state park system facilities.

- (a) The department may charge or collect a fee in a park unit for
- (1) rental of public use cabins or other overnight lodgings;
  - (2) overnight use of a developed campsite;
  - (3) special park use permits;
  - (4) competitive and exclusive commercial use permits;
  - (5) noncompetitive and nonexclusive commercial use permits;
  - (6) use of a sewage holding tank dump station;
  - (7) guided tours of historic sites;
  - (8) use of an improved boat ramp in a park facility developed principally for boat launching; [.]
  - (9) overnight use of an enroute campsite;
  - (10) sale of firewood;
  - (11) entrance into visitor centers and historical sites;

(12) notwithstanding (b) of this section, use of developed trailheads, access sites and picnic sites, each having parking, restrooms, and refuse services;

(13) sale of plans, documents, maps, and graphic materials;

(14) sale of merchandise related to public use, enjoyment, and understanding of parks; and

(15) programs related to natural or cultural history, outdoor skills, outdoor education, or other topics concerned with public use, enjoyment, and understanding of parks.

---

(f) In this section, "enroute campsite" means a campsite intended principally for short-term occupation while in transit between destinations, and not necessarily having restrooms, a picnic table, an outdoor cooking facility, or an approved water source.

\*Section 2. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 41.21.029. Donations to the state park system.

Subject to AS 41.21.030, the department may accept cash donations from private, non-profit and governmental sources, intended to assist and support the department in carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

\*Section 3. AS 41.21.030 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(d) The commissioner of administration shall separately account for fees and other money collected under AS 41.21.026 - 41.21.029 and deposited under (a) of this section. The annual estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature to make appropriations to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

\*Section 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Lloyd Jones, Chair.

Dear Senator Jones:

I am pleased to see Senate Bill #464 introduced supporting the collection of fees for certain state parks services and materials.

The ability to accept cash and other donations from public or private sources will eliminate a stumbling block in generating operating funds in support of our State Parks.

Sincerely,

*Marlynn E. Fedor*

*Thank you for your support of State Parks -*  
*ME*

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796  
PHONE: (907) 465-2400  
FACSIMILE: (907) 586-2754

April 13, 1992

The Honorable Lloyd Jones, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

Dear Senator Jones:

Subject: SB 464, relating to the collection of fees for certain state park services and materials.

Position: The Department of Natural Resources supports this bill. It will allow those who use Alaska's state parks to pay a greater share of their maintenance and operation.

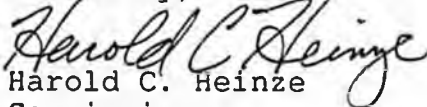
Background: Currently, park fees support approximately 24% of the park division's operating budget. Most of the six million visits to state parks each year are for day use activities, and a substantial portion of the park operating budget is for day user services. Yet the department lacks the authority to charge day use fees.

This bill adds several day use related categories to the park fee list, including: firewood sales; admission to visitor centers and historic sites; sales of graphic materials, maps, plans, and other park related merchandise; day use of certain park areas with parking, restrooms and refuse collection; park related program attendance. The bill also allows the department to charge for use of an en route campsite, as well as accept cash and other donations to carry out park purposes.

We estimate that by the fourth year of a phased implementation, these new fees would increase park revenues by approximately \$400,000 per year.

Recommendation: We suggest the enclosed two amendments to this bill. The first will allow new fees to be collected immediately, instead of waiting for 6 to 12 months until the new fee regulations are developed. The second will be a sunset clause that eliminates the statutorily set fees once the new fee regulations are promulgated.

Sincerely,

  
Harold C. Heinze  
Commissioner

enclosure

cc: Paul Fuhs, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor

SUGGESTED NEW SECTIONS  
SB 461

Need to add new sections (Numbers 4 and 5?) that reads as follows.  
This means renumbering the current Section 4.

\*Sec. 4. TEMPORARY FEES IN STATE PARKS. (a) The following fees apply for the following activities in units of the state park system until the Department of Natural Resources adopts a regulation under AS 41.21.026(c) that establishes a fee for that activity:

- (1) sale of firewood . . . . . \$4 per bundle;
- (2) use of a developed trailhead, access site, or picnic site, that has parking, restrooms, and refuse collection. . . . . \$2 per vehicle, or \$25 for an annual pass;
- (3) admission to visitor centers and historic sites . . . . . \$1 per person;
- (4) use of an en route campsite . . . . . \$3 per vehicle.

(b) The commissioner of natural resources shall notify the revisor of statutes when a regulation is adopted that establishes a fee for an activity described under (a) of this section.

\*Sec. 5. Section 4 of this Act is repealed on a date that is two years after the effective date of this section.

## FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** SB 464

**Revision Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Department Affected:** NATURAL RESOURCES

**Title:** An Act relating to the collection of fees for certain state park services. **BRU:** Park and Recreation Management

**Sponsor:** Senate Resources

**Requestor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Component:** Park Management

**COMPONENT SERIAL NO.**

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

| OPERATING              | FY 93       | FY 94       | FY 95       | FY 96       | FY 97    | FY 98    |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES      | 38.2        | 19.0        | 15.0        | 15.0        |          |          |
| TRAVEL                 |             |             |             |             |          |          |
| CONTRACTUAL            | 27.0        | 15.0        | 12.0        | 12.0        |          |          |
| SUPPLIES               | 10.8        | 6.0         | 5.0         | 5.0         |          |          |
| EQUIPMENT              |             |             |             |             |          |          |
| LAND & STRUCTURES      |             |             |             |             |          |          |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS         |             |             |             |             |          |          |
| MISCELLANEOUS          |             |             |             |             |          |          |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>76.0</b> | <b>40.0</b> | <b>32.0</b> | <b>32.0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

|                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                     |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>      | 150.0      | 200.0      | 300.0      | 400.0      | 400.0      | 400.0      |
| <b>FUND SOURCE:</b> | GF/PR 1005 | GF/PR 1005 | GF/PR 1005 | GF/PR 1005 | GF/PR 1005 | GF/PR 1005 |

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

|                    |             |             |             |             |          |          |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|
| GENERAL FUND       | 76.0        | 40.0        | 32.0        | 32.0        | 0        | 0        |
| FEDERAL FUNDS      | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        |
| OTHER FUND SOURCE: | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>76.0</b> | <b>40.0</b> | <b>32.0</b> | <b>32.0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

**POSITIONS:**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FULL-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PART-TIME | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Estimate of current year impact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)**

SEE ATTACHED PAGE

**Prepared By:** David Stephens **Phone:** 762-2653

**Division:** Parks & Outdoor Recreation **Date:** April 10, 1992

**Approved by Commissioner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 464

Revision Date: 13-Apr-92 Department Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: Parks User Fees BRU: Parks and Recreation Management  
 Components: Parks Management  
 Sponsor: Senate Resources  
 Requestor: Senate Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 452

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING            | FY 93 | FY 94 | FY 95 | FY 96 | FY 97 | FY 98 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES    | 38.2  | 19.0  | 15.0  | 15.0  |       |       |
| TRAVEL               |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL          | 27.0  | 15.0  | 12.0  | 12.0  |       |       |
| SUPPLIES             | 10.8  | 6.0   | 5.0   | 5.0   |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT            |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| LAND&STRUCTURES      |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| GRANTS,CLAIMS        |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS        |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING      | 76.0  | 40.0  | 32.0  | 32.0  | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| CAPITAL              |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| REVENUE GF/PR        | 150.0 | 200.0 | 300.0 | 400.0 | 400.0 | 400.0 |
| Funding Source: 1005 |       |       |       |       |       |       |

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

|                 |      |      |      |      |     |     |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| GENERAL FUND    | 76.0 | 40.0 | 32.0 | 32.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS   | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| OTHER           |      |      |      |      |     |     |
| Funding Source: | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL           | 76.0 | 40.0 | 32.0 | 32.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

POSITIONS:

|           |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| FULL-TIME | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| PART-TIME | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TEMPORARY | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of Current year impact:

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Prepared by: David Stephens Phone: 762-2653  
 Division: Parks & Outdoor Recreation Date: 13-Apr-92  
 Approved by Commissioner: Harold C. Heinze Date: 13-Apr-92  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) : Legislative Finance, legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB,  
& Impacted Agency(ies).

FISCAL ANALYSIS  
SB 464

The state park fee program to be funded by this fiscal note consists of the design, construction, and installation of fee collection stations at approximately 44 locations in the state park system. Each fee station is estimated to cost \$4,000, including labor, supplies, and contractual expenses.

The fee stations would be installed in phases, over a four year period. Eighteen stations would be installed in FY93, and ten stations installed in FY94. Eight stations would be installed in both FY95 and FY96. First year costs include design and production of fee collection envelopes and annual pass decals, as well as design and production of standard drawings and plans for the fee stations. These one-time costs are estimated at \$4,000.

No new positions would be required by this legislation. Additional administrative and management costs would be absorbed by existing staff.

The estimate of revenue to be produced by this bill is based on visitation records for selected park units, as well as financial records for the existing camping fee program. In the fourth year of implementation, this new fee program is expected to generate annual revenues of approximately \$400,000. Potential revenues to the state from this program exceed the state's costs in each year of the four year implementation period. In subsequent years, these user fees would help offset increased park maintenance and operating costs as well as possible general fund budget reductions. The net financial effect of this program would be positive, with fee revenues significantly greater than operating costs.

Estimated fees paid by non-residents in FY91 was 33%, or \$266,000 of the \$841,000 collected. Breakdown as follows, based on actual visitation counts and fee amounts for the camping category and best guess estimates for the other categories:

|                               | Res         | Non-res     | Total   |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Camping, nightly and annual   | 351,000-66% | 181,000-34% | 533,000 |
| Cabins                        | 35,000-85%  | 6,000-15%   | 42,000  |
| Commercial Use Permits        | 122,000-80% | 31,000-20%  | 153,000 |
| Historical Guided Tours       | 6,000-10%   | 52,000-90%  | 58,000  |
| Concession fees               | 19,000-100% | 0           | 19,000  |
| Boat Launch, daily and annual | 26,000-90%  | 3,000-10%   | 29,000  |



# ALASKA CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 84884 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708 - (907) 474-0286

## Board Officers

President  
Linda Anderson  
Kivars Edge RV  
Fairbanks

Vice President  
Bill Wyatt  
Bear Paw RV  
Valdez

Secretary-Treasurer  
Linda Jerulgan  
Tot RV Village  
Tot

## Regional Board Directors

Anchorage  
Rick Barrier  
Golden Nugget RV Park  
Anchorage

Interior Region  
Jack Rebland  
Denali Grizzly RV  
Denali Park

Mat-Su Region  
Red Starr  
Mountain View RV  
Palmer

Copper River Region  
Jeff Saxe  
Eagle Claw RV  
Valdez

Southeast Region  
Gary Hartranft  
Eagle Camper Park  
Haines

Kenai Peninsula Region  
Jack Sheldon  
Hylea's Camper Park  
Ninilchik

Senator Lloyd Jones, Chairman  
Senate Resources Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 14, 1992

Subject: SB 464 by the Senate Resources Committee "An Act relating to the collection of fees for certain state park services and materials.."

Dear Senator Jones:

The Alaska Campground Owner's Association was organized in 1989 and includes 36 private park owners from Southeast Alaska to the Dalton Highway. Resolution 92-1(attached) describes our desired relationship with the State Div. of Parks and recognizes the importance of both the State and private sector in providing park services and campgrounds to Alaska's residents and visitors. To date, we know of at least 110 privately owned parks in Alaska.

It has come to our attention that SB 464 (and provisions of HB574) appear to be in direct conflict with an earlier position taken by DOTPF Commissioner Turpin at the ACOA Annual Meeting held in Palmer in October of 1991. The Commissioner attended our meeting and responded favorably to our request which was to place "No Overnight Camping" signs at highway pull-offs being used as overnight campsites by Alaska's visitors. It was recognized that these pull-offs are not suitable for overnight camping based on the requirements of Alaska's health, sanitation, and plumbing codes and was detrimental to the current state and private park facilities.

We are adamantly opposed to the definition language establishing these same pull-offs as "campsites". Further we believe the language allows the State to not apply the same health, sanitation, and plumbing codes to these State pull-offs when permitting overnight camping as is required, at great expense, of the private sector.

Additionally, we do not believe the Division of Parks should have the authority to sell merchandise. DNR currently has the authority to permit concessionaires to offer this service.

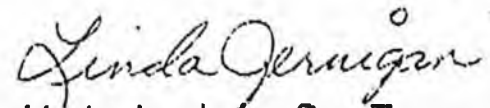
It was our understanding that the Commissioner had agreed to our request for placement of "No Overnight Camping Signs" at these highway pull-offs when we brought the problem to his attention.

Page Two  
Senator Jones  
April 14, 1992

We are now completely shocked and confused as to the State's conflicting positions in this matter. We are also extremely dismayed at the State's apparent lack of support for Alaska's private campground industry and the personal investments and services provided by many Alaskan's who are struggling to establish small businesses in the state.

Please do what you can to stop this legislation and direct the Commissioner of DOTPF to work with the ACOA in the placement of "No Overnight Camping" signs in problem areas as well as the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide enforcement by the State Troopers while on their regular highway routes. The ACOA stands ready to offer their time and labor in the installation of these signs.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Jernigan, Sec-Treas  
ACOA

cc: Commissioner DOTPF  
Commissioner Public Safety  
Neil Johansen, Dir. of Parks, DNR  
Paul Fuhs, Governor's Liaison

---

# ALASKA CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 84884 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • (907) 474-0286

## Board Officers

President  
Linda Anderson  
Rivers Edge RV  
Fairbanks

Vice President  
Bill Devon  
Polycache  
Trapper Creek

Secretary  
Dan Strouse  
Hornstoad RV Park  
Palmer

Treasurer  
Linda Jernigan  
Tok RV Village  
Tok

## Special Board Directors

Anchorage  
Rick Barrler  
Island Nugget RV Park  
Anchorage

Interior  
Jack Reiland  
Denali Grizzly RV  
Denali Park

Mat-Su  
Red Starr  
Mountain View RV  
Palmer

Copper River  
Bill Wyatt  
Bear Paw RV Park  
Valdez

Southeast  
Carlene Hoover  
Hoover's RV  
Skagway

Kenai  
Jack Sheldon  
Hyle's Campor Park  
Kenai

## Resolution 92-1

WHEREAS the tourism industry in Alaska has developed and evolved consistently over the years creating demand for additional campgrounds, and

WHEREAS the private sector has responded to meet the need for more campgrounds, and

WHEREAS the state economy has benefitted from the expansion of the tourism industry and creation of more private campgrounds, and

WHEREAS in the past 10 years the private sector has proven itself ready, willing, and able to meet any demand for additional campgrounds, especially in or near road connected communities or where existing private campgrounds are located, and

WHEREAS the state should not compete with the private sector as a general rule, especially in instances where the private sector has demonstrated the willingness and ability to meet the demand for certain services,

WHEREAS the state shall be encouraged to refrain from building or expanding existing state campgrounds in areas of a 50 mile radius to where the private sector provides campground services or can reasonably be expected to provide campground services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks system be encouraged to concentrate any proposed park development and improvements in more remote areas with primitive type accommodations rather than electrical, water and sewer hook-ups.

Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to members of the Alaska State Legislature, the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor; the Honorable Jack Coghill, Lt. Governor; DNR Commissioner, Harold Heinze; Chief of Staff, Max Hadel; OMB Director, Shelby Stastoy; DEC Commissioner, John Sandor; DOTPF Commissioner, Frank Turpin



**TOK  
RV  
VILLAGE**

(907) 883-5877  
Mile 1313.4 Alaska Highway  
P. O. Box 741 Tok, Alaska 99780

To: Senate Resources Committee  
Senate Finance Committee

4-14-92

Subject: SB 464

We strongly oppose Senate Bill #444, specifically "enroute campsites" and authority to sell merchandise.

"Enroute Campsites" would be in direct competition with approximately 110 private campgrounds in the State of Alaska. Private campgrounds have a minimum investment of at least \$22,000,000. In addition to the future of the private campground industry we must consider the adverse effect "enroute campsites" would have indirectly. Private campgrounds employ seasonal employees and use services provided by power companies, fuel companies, refuse, hardware and supply companies and numerous tourism related companies.

By encouraging potential campers to use the "enroute campsites" the State will be taking away revenues from entire communities.

We urge you to stop this legislation and support Alaska Campground Owners Association's efforts in the placement of "No Overnight Camping" signs in highway pull-offs.

Sincerely,

Linda Jernigan  
Secretary

cc: Linda Anderson/Alaska Campground Owners Assoc.  
Commissioner DOTPF, Turpin  
Paul Fuhs, Governor's Liason

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE STATE PARK DAY USE FEE BILL

### **What would this bill do?**

The bill adds new categories of user fees to an existing state law (AS 41.21.026-.030). The park system already collects for such activities as overnight camping, boat launching, and commercial use permits. The new bill would expand the list of fee categories to include:

- day use fees;
- entrance into visitor centers and historical sites;
- sale of firewood;
- enroute camping;
- sale of plans, documents, and graphic materials;
- sale of park-related merchandise; and
- park-related programs.

The bill also authorizes the collection of cash donations, and provides for their use in the park system. Fees and donations collected under this new authority would be administered under the existing fee program. Revenues would be separately accounted for and deposited into the state's general fund, where they are available for reappropriation by the legislature. Since the original fee program's inception, every fee dollar has been reinvested in the park system by the legislature.

### **Why is it being proposed?**

Maintenance and operations costs of the state park system increase every year, while state budgets are under severe stress from declining oil revenues. This bill gives the park system the legal authority to partially compensate for expected budget cuts through the collection of user fees. These fees allow the park system to keep facilities open that might otherwise be curtailed or closed. User fees are widely supported by the public, provided that the fees are returned to the park system to offset maintenance and operational costs.

### **How much money would be collected?**

After an initial phase-in period, it is estimated that more than \$400,000 would be collected annually. This sum represents a significant portion of the park operating budget.

### **How would these fees be collected and enforced?**

Fees would be collected and enforced like the existing fee system. Most areas would be self-service. Fee stations, with instructions and "iron rangers" for deposits, would be erected in prominent locations near park entrances. Uniformed park staff or volunteers would check compliance with the program.

**How would the program be administered?**

Because this bill simply expands an existing fee system, the new fees would be administered under the existing system. Fees are collected and counted by the local parks office, and deposited into a special account within the state general fund. The funds are then available for spending by the local parks office, provided that the legislature has appropriated them.

**Are day use fees common in other states?**

Yes. At least 38 other state park systems have day use or park entrance fees.

**Has the original park fee program (authorized in 1987) been successful? How much money has it raised? How have the revenues been spent?**

The original fee program was gradually implemented, starting in mid-1987 and continuing into 1992. Public acceptance has been high, and more than \$2.3 million has been collected to date. According to policy, revenues are always returned to the local area where they were collected, and applied towards park maintenance and operations costs. The state expects to collect \$1 million in 1992.

**Does the public support these fees?**

The public has consistently supported user fees, provided that they are reinvested into the park system where they are collected, and that facilities are staffed and maintained to acceptable standards.

**What organized support and opposition is there?**

To date, the bill has generated no organized support or opposition. Local park advisory boards are currently reviewing the proposal and will likely offer comments and take formal positions.

**What would it cost to operate and administer this program?**

No additional operation and administration costs are expected. However, there would be an initial extra cost, for the construction and installation of fee collection stations. Some minor modification of park entrance roads may also be necessary to accommodate fee stations. Costs of these improvements are expected to total \$180,000, spread over a four year period beginning in 1993. No additional staff positions would be necessary.

**Won't these fees discourage people from using the parks?**

In spite of public support for reasonable user fees, it is possible that some people will cut back on their park visitation. However, the fee program will be conservatively applied, at only those sites where high value services and facilities are offered. Additionally, an annual day use pass will be available for families who visit parks on a regular basis. The annual pass enables unlimited use of parks and limits the amount any family would be required to pay in a year.

**What management problems can be expected as a result of these fees?**

No management problems are anticipated for most of the new types of fees, such as the sale of park-related merchandise. Entrance and day use fees, however, would be

examined on a case-by-case basis to ensure that potential problems are identified and avoided. One potential problem is vehicular parking congestion immediately outside park units by people avoiding the fee. Another is non-compliance, where there is no on-site enforcement presence by the state. Perhaps the most difficult problem to assess is resentment among park users who do not support user fees.

**What would the fee levels be?**

Fee amounts would be governed by state regulations, adopted through a formal public review process required by the Alaska Administrative Procedures Act. Typically, the regulations authorize the director to set the fees, up to a specific maximum dollar amount, based on operating costs, quality of the facility, prevailing market prices, proximity to other similar facilities, and other factors. The typical day use fee would likely be \$1-2 per vehicle. Annual passes would be around \$20.

**For more information:**

Neil Johannsen  
David Stephens  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Box 107001  
Anchorage, AK 99510-7001  
762-2653

Mike Lee  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4613  
451-2695

Bill Garry  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
400 Willoughby, Third Floor  
Juneau, AK 99801  
465-4563

## REVENUE POTENTIAL FROM DAY USE FEE BILL

|  | Visitation | Fee Potential |
|--|------------|---------------|
| <b>Visitor center entrance fees (\$1 per person)</b> |            |               |
| Eagle River  | 37,993     | 8,000         |
| Wickersham House                                     | 15,177     | 4,000         |
| <b>Day use fees (\$2 per vehicle)</b>                |            |               |
| Northern   |            |               |
| Quartz Lake  | 44,475     | 3,000         |
| Harding Lake   | 37,715     | 3,000         |
| Chena River SRS                                      | 149,525    | 12,000        |
| Angel Rock (Chena River SRA)                         | NA         | 3,000         |
| Colorado Creek (Chena River SRA)                     | NA         | 1,000         |
| Tors Trailhead (Chena River SRA)                     | NA         | 2,000         |
| Red Squirrel (Chena River SRA)                       | NA         | 1,000         |
| Chugach  |            |               |
| Eklutna Lake   | 138,010    | 10,000        |
| Thunderbird Falls                                    | 51,551     | 4,000         |
| Eagle River  | 156,651    | 6,000         |
| Glen Alps  | 55,839     | 4,000         |
| McHugh Creek   | 58,717     | 5,000         |
| North Fork Eagle River                               | NA         | 3,000         |
| Bird Creek   | 105,444    | 8,000         |
| MatSu/Copper Basin                                   |            |               |
| Willow Creek   | NA         | 5,000         |
| Little Susitna (ADFG)                                | 59,112     | 6,000         |
| Big Lake North                                       | 84,275     | 8,000         |
| Big Lake South                                       | 39,929     | 3,000         |
| Independence Mine                                    | 129,298    | 10,000        |
| Kepler-Bradley                                       | 23,036     | 3,000         |
| Southeast  |            |               |
| Settler's Cove                                       | 169,315    | 12,000        |
| Totem Bight  | 377,747    | 5,000         |
| Kenai  |            |               |
| Crooked Creek  | 57,789     | 5,000         |
| Bing's Landing                                       | 62,744     | 3,000         |
| Scout Lake   | 12,325     | 1,000         |
| Slikok Creek   | 17,124     | 1,000         |
| Morgan's Landing                                     | 48,225     | 5,000         |
| Captain Cook   | 173,710    | 6,000         |
| Clam Gulch   | 124,931    | 5,000         |
| Ninilchik Beach                                      | 59,585     | 5,000         |
| Deep Creek   | 134,425    | 8,000         |
| Anchor River SRA                                     | 124,779    | 5,000         |
| Subtotal   |            | 161,000       |
| <b>Annual day use passes (\$25)</b>                  | 6,500      | 162,000       |

|   |        |                |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Sales of plans, documents, maps, graphics |        | 5,000          |
| Sale of merchandise                       |        | 5,000          |
| Interpretive Programs                     |        | 5,000          |
| Firewood (\$3)                            |        | 24,000         |
| 10% of 80,000 camping parties             |        |                |
| <b>Enroute camping</b>                    |        |                |
| Northern                                  |        |                |
| Lost Lake                                 | NA     | 2,000          |
| Fielding Lake                             |        | 1,000          |
| Chugach                                   |        |                |
| Potter Section House                      | NA     | 8,000          |
| MatSu/Copper Basin                        |        |                |
| Deception Creek                           | 19,349 | 3,000          |
| Long Lake                                 | 26,270 | 4,000          |
| Bonnie Lake                               | 5,742  | 2,000          |
| Little Coal Creek                         | 7,836  | 2,000          |
| Worthington Glacier                       | 96,160 | 4,000          |
| Subtotal                                  |        | 26,000         |
| <br>                                      |        |                |
| <b>TOTAL ANNUAL FEE POTENTIAL</b>         |        | <b>400,000</b> |

DS 1/17/92