

**HB**

**131**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

# SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 5/12/99

FURTHER: 5/16/99

DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 16 May 1999

Finance Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 131

"An Act relating to public rights-of-way and easements for surface transportation across the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS HB 131 (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
  - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
  - technical title
  - new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING <u>DO</u> PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
		<i>[Signature]</i>			
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>		X	
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
Co-Chair:		Co-Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
Co-Chair:		Co-Chair: <i>[Signature]</i>			X

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
DOT + PF	5/1/99	✓	*
DNR	5/23/99	✓	
F.P.G	5/23/99	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

**HOUSE BILL NO. 131**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES GREEN, Bunde, Rokeberg**

Introduced: 3/10/99

Referred: Resources

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to public rights-of-way and easements for surface transportation  
2 across the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge."

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

4 \* Section 1. AS 16.20.031(c) is amended to read:

5 (c) A public right-of-way for surface transportation and a utility corridor are  
6 created across state-owned land and water within the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife  
7 Refuge between the Anchorage mainland and Fire Island. The management plan  
8 prepared under (b) of this section shall identify the actual location on the land and  
9 water of the right-of-way and of the utility corridor between the Anchorage mainland  
10 and Fire Island. Except for the public right-of-way and utility corridor created in  
11 this subsection and identified in the management plan, a public right-of-way or  
12 other easement for surface transportation may not be created across the refuge  
13 without the prior approval of the legislature by law.

FAIL

SENATE FINANCE  
COMMITTEE

Amendment Number: 1  
Bill Number: HB 131  
Sponsor: Adams Date: 5/16/99  
Logged In By: Mindy

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT No. \_\_\_\_\_

By Adams

To: HB 131 SENATE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

PA 1 Line 12

delete SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

INSERT

Bike PATH OR Trail

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
**1999 COMMITTEE ACTION**

<b>Bill Number</b>	HB 131
<b>Amendment</b>	#1
<b>Motion</b>	adopt
<b><u>Motion by</u></b>	A Adams
<b><u>Objection</u></b>	
<b><u>Objection by</u></b>	Leman
<b><u>Removed</u></b>	
<b><u>Second Objection by</u></b>	
<b><u>Committee Member</u></b>	<b><u>Vote</u></b>
Senator Dave Donley	Y
Senator Loren Leman	N
Senator Al Adams	Y
Senator Gary Wilken	Y
Senator Pete Kelly	Y
Senator Lyda Green	Y
Senator Randy Phillips	Y
Co-Chair Sean Parnell	Y
Co-Chair John Torgerson	Y
<b><u>Tally</u></b>	
Yea	0 4
Nay	0 5
Absent	0
<b><u>MOTION</u></b>	FAIL

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
1999 COMMITTEE ACTION

<b>Bill Number</b>	HB 131	
<b>Amendment</b>	<del>#1</del>	
<b>Motion</b>	Suspend Report Out	
<b><u>Motion by</u></b>	H. Adams Donley	
<b><u>Objection</u></b>	H. Adams	
<b><u>Objection by</u></b>	H. Adams	
<b><u>Removed</u></b>		
<b><u>Second Objection by</u></b>		
<b><u>Committee Member</u></b>	<b><u>Vote</u></b>	
Senator Loren Leman	Y	
Senator Al Adams	N	
Senator Gary Wilken	Y	
Senator Pete Kelly	Y	
Senator Lyda Green	Y	
Senator Randy Phillips	N	
Senator Dave Donley	Y	
Co-Chair Sean Parnell	Y	
Co-Chair John Torgerson	Y	
<b><u>Tally</u></b>		
Yea	0	27
Nay	0	7 2
Absent	0	
<b><u>MOTION</u></b>	PASS	

# Alaska State Legislature

WHILE IN SESSION  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1112  
(907) 465-4931  
1-800-870-4931  
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VICE-CHAIRMAN, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MEMBER, HEALTH, EDUCATION &  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEES  
ALASKA COURT SYSTEM  
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DEPT. OF REVENUE

## Representative Joe Green

District 10

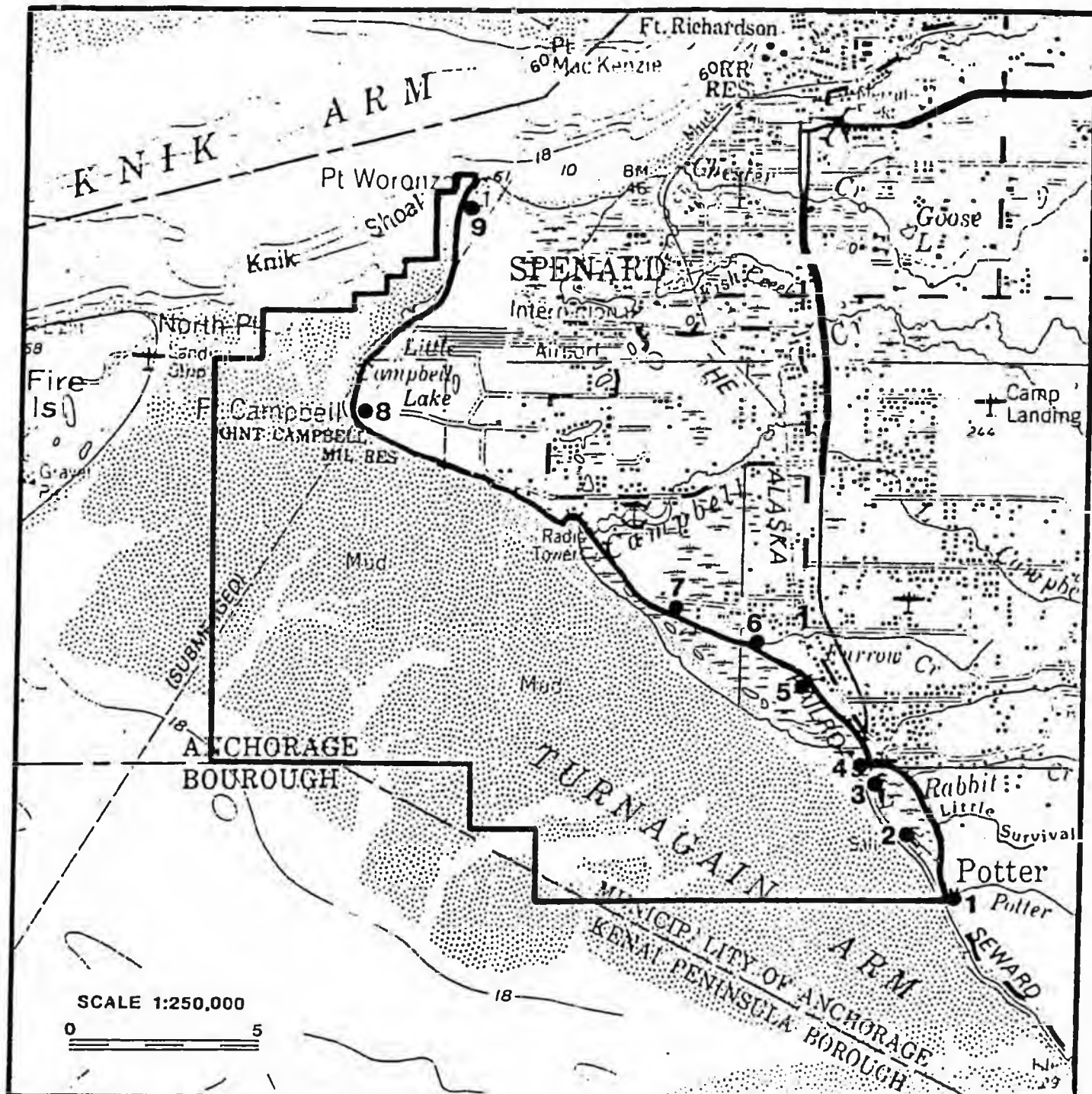
House Majority Leader

### Sponsor Statement

#### **HB 131 "Relating to rights of way and easements for surface transportation in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge"**

The Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR) was created by the legislature in 1988. Most of the refuge had previously been classified by the legislature as the Potter Point State Game refuge.

In establishing the ACWR the legislature granted the authority to approve rights of way through the refuge to the Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources. HB 131 establishes additional protection for the refuge by withdrawing that grant of authority, and reserving unto the legislature the right to approve surface transportation rights of ways and easements.



### ANCHORAGE COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - MAJOR PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS

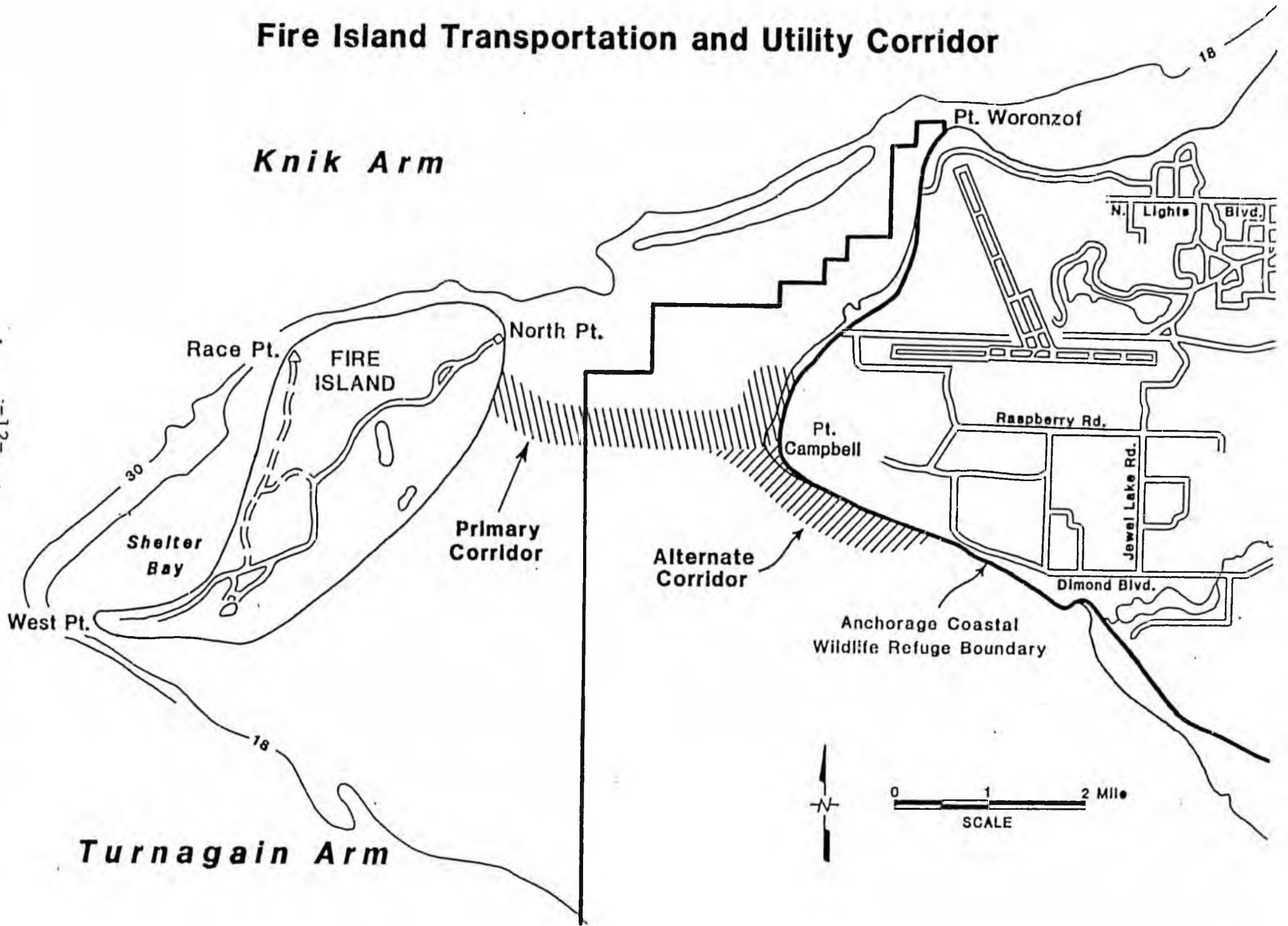
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. South end of Potter Marsh (Old weigh station)        | 6. John's Park (Furrow Creek)                          |
| 2. Mid marsh paved pull-out                             | 7. Spyglass Circle off of Klatt Road                   |
| 3. North end of Potter Marsh parking area and boardwalk | 8. Coastal Trail from Point Campbell to Point Woronzof |
| 4. Rabbit Creek rifle range                             | 9. Point Woronzof                                      |
| 5. Reef Drive (Oceanview Bluff Park)                    |  |

Additional public access to the refuge can be found where public lands abut the refuge. It is illegal to cross or walk along the Alaska Railroad right-of-way except at the railroad crossing at the Rabbit Creek Rifle Range. The Anchorage Waste Water Utility facility road from Campbell Lake to the refuge is a private road, with no public access allowed.

The refuge boundary shown depicts the statutory extent of the refuge. Private lands within this boundary are not part of the refuge.

# Fire Island Transportation and Utility Corridor

*Knik Arm*



-12-

*Turnagain Arm*

As of 5/8/99

62 Zip Codes 1,118 Signatures

**Friends of the Refuge  
Save ACWR & RCRR Petitions**

62 ZIP Codes	Signatures	Location
1	99501	31 Anchorage - Downtown
2	99502	68 Anchorage - West
3	99503	41 Anchorage - Midtown
4	99504	118 Anchorage - East
5	99505	18 Anchorage - East
6	99506	22 Elmendorf Air Force Base
7	99507	104 Anchorage - East Hillside
8	99508	76 Anchorage - Midtown
9	99509	10 Anchorage
10	99510	7 Anchorage
11	99511	19 Anchorage
12	99512	1 Anchorage
13	99513	1 Anchorage
14	99514	14 Anchorage
15	99515	126 Anchorage - South
16	99516	86 Anchorage - East Hillside
17	99517	40 Anchorage - Midtown
18	99518	39 Anchorage - Midtown
19	99519	5 Anchorage - Midtown
20	99520	2 Anchorage
21	99521	7 Anchorage
22	99522	10 Anchorage
23	99523	7 Anchorage
24	99524	10 Anchorage - Midtown
25	99540	3 Indian/Girdwood, AK
26	99552	1 Akiak, AK
27	99567	22 Chugiah, AK
28	99575	1 Crooked Creek, AK
29	99577	64 Eagle River, AK
30	99578	2 Eek, AK
31	99587	3 Girdwood, AK
32	99654	1 Wasilla, AK
33	99676	1 Talkeetna, AK
34	30066	1 Marietta, GA
35	99603	1 Homer, AK
36	99607	1 Kalshag, AK
37	99610	2 Kasilof, AK
38	99611	4 Kenai, AK
39	99635	2 Nikiski/Kenai, AK
40	99645	27 Palmer, AK
41	99652	1 Big Lake/Wasilla, AK
42	99654	26 Wasilla, AK
43	99664	4 Seward, AK
44	99669	24 Soldotna, AK
45	99672	9 Sterling, AK
46	99674	4 Chickaloon, AK
47	99676	2 Talkeetna, AK
48	99678	2 Togiak, AK
49	99683	2 Trapper Creek/Willow, AK
50	99686	1 Valdez, AK
51	99687	15 Wasilla, AK
52	99688	1 Willow, AK
53	99692	1 Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, AK
54	99693	1 Whittier, AK
55	99701	1 Fairbanks, AK
56	99708	1 Fairbanks, AK
57	99709	6 Fairbanks, AK
58	99712	1 Fairbanks, AK
59	99780	1 Tok, AK
60	99801	1 Juneau, AK
61	99835	1 Sitka, AK
62	99901	1 Ketchikan, AK
Blank		12

1118

Table 2. Major plant communities of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge as described in various studies.

<u>Plant Community*</u>	<u>McCormick &amp; Pinchon (1978)</u>	<u>Quimby (1972)</u>	<u>Batten et al. (1978)</u>
WETLANDS			
algae	algae (I)	unvegetated mud (type 2)	
<u>Puccinellia-Triglochin</u>	arrowgrass (G), alkaligrass (H)	seaside arrowgrass/large alkali-grass, unvegetated mud (type 1)	coastal marsh (sparse halophytic vegetation)
		Ramenski sedge	
	bayonetgrass (F)	unvegetated mud (type 3)	
		creeping alkali-grass	
<u>Carex</u>	Lyngbye sedge (E)	marsh	coastal marsh ( <u>Carex lyngbyaei</u> type)
black spruce (drowned)	black spruce (C)	seaside arrowgrass conglomerate, marsh fringe (1,2)	coastal marsh (inner marsh type)
		floating marsh	
shrub bog ( <u>Myrica gale</u> type)	sweetgale (B)	bog	coastal marsh (inner marsh type)
<u>Calamagrostis</u>	bluejoint grass (A)	marsh fringe (3)	coastal marsh (inner marsh type)
<u>Scirpus-Carex</u> marsh			freshwater marsh

Table 2. Continued.

<u>Plant Community*</u>	<u>McCormick &amp; Pinchon (1978)</u>	<u>Quimby (1972)</u>	<u>Batten et al. (197)</u>
	LOWLAND FOREST AND BOGS		
shrub-bog ( <u>Myrica-Sphagnum</u> -spruce type)	black spruce (C)		bog
black spruce (live)	black spruce (C)		
deciduous	broadleaf (D)	alder	forest, alder swamp, willow alder thicket

\* Refer to map of vegetation communities in map pocket for boundaries of these communities.

Table 3. Estimated numbers of anadromous and freshwater fish in and migrating up the 2 largest streams in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (K. Roth, pers. commun.).

<u>Species</u>	<u>Rabbit Creek</u>	<u>Campbell Creek</u>
Pink salmon	500 - 2,000	few - 200 <sup>a</sup>
Coho salmon	50 - 250	100 - 200
King salmon	25 - 100	500 - 1,000
Red salmon	rare	700 - 1,000
Chum salmon	0	present
Dolly Varden	500	700 - 1,200
Whitefish spp.	present	present
Rainbow trout	0	5,000 - 10,000 <sup>b</sup>
Stickleback spp.	very numerous	very numerous

<sup>a</sup> Peaks on even-numbered years, very few on odd-numbered years.

<sup>b</sup> Stocked annually by the F.R.E.D. Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Table 4. Wild mammals known to occur on the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

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<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Masked shrew	<u>Sorex cinereus</u>
Vagrant shrew	<u>Sorex vagrans</u>
Snowshoe hare	<u>Lepus americanus</u>
Red squirrel	<u>Tamiasciurus Hudsonicus</u>
Beaver	<u>Castor canadensis</u>
Red-backed vole	<u>Clethrionomys rutilus</u>
Meadow vole	<u>Microtus pennsylvanicus</u>
Muskrat	<u>Ondatra zibethicus</u>
Meadow jumping mouse	<u>Zapus hudsonius</u>
Porcupine	<u>Erithizon dorsatum</u>
Belukha	<u>Delphinapterus leucas</u>
Coyote	<u>Canis latrans</u>
Red fox	<u>Vulpes vulpes</u>
Black bear	<u>Ursus americanus</u>
Brown bear	<u>Ursus arctos</u>
Short-tailed weasel	<u>Mustela erminea</u>
Mink	<u>Mustela vison</u>
River otter	<u>Lutra canadensis</u>
Lynx	<u>Felis canadensis</u>
Moose	<u>Alces alces</u>

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Table 5. Bird species known to occur on the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Loons and grebes:</u>		
Pacific loon	<u>Gavia pacifica</u>	R*
Red-necked grebe	<u>Podiceps griseogen</u>	C*
Horned grebe	<u>Podiceps auritus</u>	U*
<u>Hérons:</u>		
Great blue heron	<u>Ardea herodias</u>	CA
<u>Swans:</u>		
Tundra swan	<u>Cygnus columbianus</u>	U
Trumpeter swan	<u>Cygnus buccinator</u>	R
<u>Geese:</u>		
Canada goose	<u>Branta canadensis</u>	C*
White-fronted goose	<u>Anser albifrons</u>	R
Snow goose	<u>Chen caerulescens</u>	U
<u>Dabbling Ducks:</u>		
Mallard	<u>Anas platyrhynchos</u>	C*
Gadwall	<u>Anas strepera</u>	R
Northern pintail	<u>Anas acuta</u>	C*
Green-winged teal	<u>Anas crecca</u>	C*
Garganey	<u>Anas querquedula</u>	CA
Blue-winged teal	<u>Anas discors</u>	CA
Northern shoveler	<u>Anas clypeata</u>	U*
Eurasian wigeon	<u>Anas penelope</u>	R
American wigeon	<u>Anas americana</u>	C*
<u>Diving and seaducks:</u>		
Canvasback	<u>Aythya valisineria</u>	U*
Redhead	<u>Aythya americana</u>	CA
Ring-necked duck	<u>Aythya collaris</u>	R
Greater scaup	<u>Aythya marila</u>	U*
Lesser scaup	<u>Aythya affinis</u>	R
Common goldeneye	<u>Bucephala clangula</u>	U*
Barrow's goldeneye	<u>Bucephala islandica</u>	U
Bufflehead	<u>Bucephala albeola</u>	R
Oldsquaw	<u>Clangula hyemalis</u>	CA
White-winged scoter	<u>Melanitta fusca</u>	CA
Common merganser	<u>Merqus merganser</u>	U
<u>Raptors:</u>		
Northern goshawk	<u>Accipiter gentilis</u>	U
Red-tailed hawk	<u>Buteo jamaicensis</u>	U*
Swainson's hawk	<u>Buteo swainsoni</u>	CA
Rough-legged hawk	<u>Buteo lagopus</u>	R
Golden eagle	<u>Aquila chrysaetos</u>	R
Bald eagle	<u>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</u>	U
Northern harrier	<u>Circus cyaneus</u>	U

Table 5. Continued.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Raptors:</u>		
Osprey	<u>Pandion haliaetus</u>	R
Merlin	<u>Falco columbarius</u>	U
American Kestrel	<u>Falco sparverius</u>	CA
Peregrine falcon	<u>Falco peregrinus</u>	R
<u>Ptarmigans:</u>		
Willow ptarmigan	<u>Lagopus lagopus</u>	R
<u>Cranes:</u>		
Sandhill crane	<u>Grus canadensis</u>	R*
<u>Coots:</u>		
American coot	<u>Fulica americana</u>	CA
<u>Shorebirds:</u>		
Semipalmated plover	<u>Charadrius semipalmatus</u>	C*
Killdeer	<u>Charadrius vociferus</u>	R
Lesser golden plover	<u>Pluvialis dominica</u>	U
Black-bellied plover	<u>Pluvialis squatarola</u>	R
Hudsonian godwit	<u>Limosa haemastica</u>	R
Whimbrel	<u>Numenius phaeopus</u>	R
Greater yellowlegs	<u>Tringa melanoleuca</u>	C*
Lesser yellowlegs	<u>Tringa flavipes</u>	C*
Solitary sandpiper	<u>Tringa solitaria</u>	U*
Terek sandpiper	<u>Xenus cinereus</u>	CA
Spotted sandpiper	<u>Actitis macularia</u>	U*
Wandering tattler	<u>Heteroscelus incanus</u>	R
Ruddy turnstone	<u>Arenaria interpres</u>	CA
Black turnstone	<u>Arenaria melanocephala</u>	R
Red-necked phalarope	<u>Phalaropus lobatus</u>	U*
Common snipe	<u>Gallinago gallinago</u>	C*
Short-billed dowitcher	<u>Limnodromus griseus</u>	C
Long-billed dowitcher	<u>Limnodromus scolopaceus</u>	U
Surfbird	<u>Aphriza virgata</u>	U
Semipalmated sandpiper	<u>Calidris pusilla</u>	U
Western sandpiper	<u>Calidris mauri</u>	C
Rufous-necked stint	<u>Calidris ruficollis</u>	CA
Least sandpiper	<u>Calidris minutilla</u>	C*
Baird's sandpiper	<u>Calidris bairdii</u>	R
Pectoral sandpiper	<u>Calidris melanotos</u>	U
Sharptailed sandpiper	<u>Calidris scuminota</u>	CA
Dunlin	<u>Calidris alpina</u>	R
<u>Jaegers, gulls, and terns:</u>		
Parasitic jaeger	<u>Stercorarius parasiticus</u>	CA
Glaucous gull	<u>Larus hyperboreus</u>	CA
Glaucous-winged gull	<u>Larus glaucescens</u>	C*
Herring gull	<u>Larus argentatus</u>	U*

Table 5. Continued.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Mew gull	<u>Larus canus</u>	C*
Bonaparte's gull	<u>Larus philadelphia</u>	U*
Arctic tern	<u>Sterna paradisaea</u>	C*
<u>Doves:</u>		
Rock dove	<u>Columba livia</u>	R
<u>Owls:</u>		
Great horned owl	<u>Bubo virginianus</u>	U
Northern hawk owl	<u>Surnia ulula</u>	CA
Short-eared owl	<u>Asio flammeus</u>	R
Boreal owl	<u>Aegolius funereus</u>	CA
<u>Woodpeckers:</u>		
Common flicker	<u>Coaptes auratus</u>	U*
<u>Flycatchers:</u>		
Alder flycatcher	<u>Empidonax alnorum</u>	C*
Olive-sided flycatcher	<u>Contopus borealis</u>	U*
<u>Swallows:</u>		
Violet-green swallow	<u>Tachycineta thalassina</u>	C*
Tree swallow	<u>Tachycineta bicolor</u>	U*
Bank swallow	<u>Riparia riparia</u>	C*
Barn swallow	<u>Hirundo rustica</u>	CA
Cliff swallow	<u>Hirundo pyrrhonota</u>	U
<u>Jays, magpies, and crows:</u>		
Steller's jay	<u>Cyanocitta stelleri</u>	R
Gray jay	<u>Perisoreus canadensis</u>	R
Black-billed magpie	<u>Pica pica</u>	U*
Common raven	<u>Corvus corax</u>	U*
Clark's nutcracker	<u>Nucifraga columbiana</u>	CA
<u>Chickadees:</u>		
Black-capped chickadee	<u>Parus atricapillus</u>	C*
Boreal chickadee	<u>Parus hudsonicus</u>	U*
<u>Thrushes:</u>		
American robin	<u>Turdus migratorius</u>	C*
Hermit thrush	<u>Catharus guttatus</u>	U*
Swainson's thrush	<u>Catharus ustulatus</u>	U*
Gray-checked thrush	<u>Catharus minimus</u>	R
<u>Kinglets:</u>		
Ruby-crowned kinglet	<u>Regulus calendula</u>	C*
Golden crowned kinglet	<u>Regulus satrapus</u>	U
<u>Pipits:</u>		
American pipit	<u>Anthus rubescens</u>	U

Table 5. Continued.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Shrikes:</u>		
Northern shrike	<u>Lanius excubitor</u>	U*
<u>Wood warblers:</u>		
Yellow-rumped warbler	<u>Dendroica coronata</u>	C*
Northern waterthrush	<u>Seiurus noveboracensis</u>	R*
Wilson's warbler	<u>Wilsonia pusilla</u>	U*
Blackpoll warbler	<u>Dendroica striata</u>	U*
Townsend's warbler	<u>Dendroica townsendi</u>	U*
Yellow warbler	<u>Dendroica petechia</u>	U*
Orange-crowned warbler	<u>Vermivora celata</u>	C*
<u>Blackbirds:</u>		
Yellow-headed blackbird	<u>Xanthocephalus</u> CA	
Red-winged blackbird	<u>Agelaius phoeniceus</u>	R*
Rusty blackbird	<u>Euphagus carolinus</u>	U*
Brown-headed cowbird	<u>Molothrus ater</u>	CA
<u>Sparrows and buntings:</u>		
Savannah sparrow	<u>Passerculus sandwichensis</u>	C*
Dark-eyed junco	<u>Junco hyemalis</u>	C*
American tree sparrow	<u>Spizella arborea</u>	R
White-crowned sparrow	<u>Zonotrichia leucophrys</u>	C*
Golden-crowned sparrow	<u>Zonotrichia atricapilla</u>	U*
Fox sparrow	<u>Passerella iliaca</u>	C*
Lincoln's sparrow	<u>Melospiza lincolni</u>	C*
Song sparrow	<u>Melospiza melodia</u>	R*
Lapland longspur	<u>Calcarius lapponicus</u>	U
Snow bunting	<u>Plectrophenax nivalis</u>	R
<u>Finches:</u>		
Pine grosbeak	<u>Pinicola enucleator</u>	U
Common redpoll	<u>Carduelis flammea</u>	U*
Pine siskin	<u>Carduelis pinus</u>	C*
White-winged crossbill	<u>Loxia leucoptera</u>	U*

Sources: ADF&G report (1970), Anchorage Audubon Seeing Eye Notebook, ADFG staff observations, and T.G. Tobish (pers. commun).

Status

- C Common-Species occurs repeatedly in all or nearly all proper habitats; areas of presumed suitable habitat are occupied heavily but some can be occupied sparsely or not at all; and/or the region regularly hosts great numbers of the species.
- U Uncommon-Species occurs regularly but may not be observed even in proper habitat; utilizes only some or very little of the suitable habitat; and/or the region regularly hosts relatively small numbers of species.
- R Rare-Species occurs, or probably occurs, regularly within the region, but in very small numbers.
- CA Casual or Accidental-Species has been recorded no more than a few times, but irregular observations are likely over a period of years or a species so far from its normal range that further observations are unlikely.
- \* Breeder-Known or probable breeder on the refuge.

RECEIVED

MAY 15 1999

Senate Finance  
Committee**Memo**

To:  
**Senator Torgerson  
and  
Senate Finance Committee**

From:  
**Julie Olsen  
1501 Oceanview Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
(907) 345-6575**

Subject:  
**South Extension of the Coastal Trail**

Date:  
**5/15/99**

Informational:

Action:

Response Required:

Dear Senator Torgerson and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

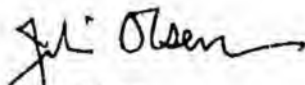
I'm writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 131 that would require Legislative approval of a trail through the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. When I moved to Oceanview 10 years ago, I knew that the Coastal Trail was part of the long-range plan for this area. Along with the majority of other non-bluff lot homeowners in this neighborhood, I have waited and hoped for the Coastal Trail to come to my neighborhood. The Trail will provide recreational opportunities for all ages and will improve safety for motorists because bicyclists, joggers, and dog walkers will have an appropriate place to exercise.

The benefits of the Coastal Trail, however, extend far beyond the parochial concerns of the folks on my street. The Coastal Trail can become a defining characteristic of Anchorage – like the San Antonio River Walk or the Seattle Space Needle. It is public spaces like these that take a community from the ordinary and make it extraordinary. It is these special and wonderful elements of a community that draw new development, keep young people here to build our community, and make it a great place to live and visit.

As for the environmental arguments against the Coastal Trail - It is astonishing to me that a Republican and supposedly pro-development Legislature such as our own (a Legislature that for years has argued that we can engineer responsible oil-field development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) apparently believes that we cannot thread a simple trail for non-motorized vehicles along the edge of the Wildlife Refuge in Anchorage.

The beautiful vistas of the coast of Anchorage should not be reserved for private viewing by a few of the influential. Please do your part to insure access for everyone – please vote against House Bill 131.

Respectfully,



Julie Olsen

*I cannot attend.  
Please submit this  
testimony to Senate  
Finance.*

**Testimony in opposition to HB131**

House Resources Committee

~~Saturday May 15, 1999~~

*Sunday May 16, 1999*

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MAY 16 1999

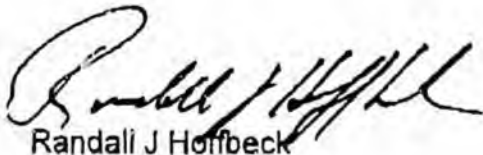
Senate Finance  
Committee

The language in HB131 requiring legislative approval prior to creating a public right-of-way or easement in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge will effectively eliminate a potential option for the alignment of the south extension of the Coastal trail from Kincaid to Potter Marsh. This will occur at the very time that the public involvement process for this trail project is currently underway. This public involvement process is intended to bring together all interested parties to determine the guidelines that will be used in determining the proper location for this trail.

Although potential alignments for this trail have yet to be developed, it has to be noted that the potential for a trail in the Wildlife Refuge has been debated and institutionalized in virtually every major planning document for the last 20 years. It appeared in the Anchorage Coastal Management Plan which was adopted in concept by the Municipal Assembly in 1979 with final approval given by the state legislature in March of 1980. This plan allowed for "the local government to develop and implement its own program to suit local needs. At the same time, it protected resources of state concern and it established a process for conflict resolution". The Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge was created by the state legislature in 1988. After significant public input, the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan was published by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1991. That plan allowed that "coastal trail access may be allowed within the refuge where disturbance to fish and wildlife populations and their habitat is avoided; where safety considerations and conflicts to existing refuge uses including waterfowl hunting and rifle range use allow; and where compatible

with management of refuge public access points and the goals of this management plan." And again the Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan, after years of public process, reiterated the potential for a coastal trail existing within the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. It is clear from these planning documents, developed with significant public input, that there is an expectation from the public, that this potential alignment should be considered.

It should also be noted that even without legislative approval, the state already has a significant say in the final disposition of a trail within the Refuge. Under the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan, the siting, design, and construction of a trail within the refuge will require a Special Area Permit from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In addition, as a requirement of the Federal funding for this project, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game must concur in any alignment plan that would cross Refuge lands. When this is combined with the other local, state, and federal agencies that have management responsibilities on refuge lands, it seems unnecessary to add legislative approval to the process as well. This legislation will not establish additional protection for the reserve, that protection already exists. It will only serve to nullify the years of effort put into a local planning process and circumvent the current Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan, and the Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan.



Randall J Hoffbeck

Parks and Beautification Manager

Municipality of Anchorage

Dear Senator

May 15, 1999

Please help pass HB131 to protect the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

ADF&G has repeatedly advised HDR the MOA and ADOT/PF a refuge route for the trail south of Spyglass Circle/Bayshore land fill, could not be authorized under refuge statutes. Loss of wildlife habitat, displacement of sensitive fish and wildlife species, and conflicts with refuge uses, including the Anchorage rifle range, would make an all-refuge route for the trail incompatible with refuge statutes.

Even the 1983 Coastal Trail Plan was opposed by the ADF&G.

Our governor and mayor are leaning quite heavily on the above agencies and making rational and financial discussions difficult.

HDR is evasive when questioned about cost. At one point HDR states "cost is not a factor". I and other taxpayers do feel cost is a factor.

Maintenance will be a very costly item.

No mention of failed bond issue to rebuild portions of existing trail that are sliding down the bluff which indicates reluctance on the part of the public to fund expensive to maintain trails such as in wetlands, soft soils, or on fragile bluffs.

We have a trail on Klatt Road, built on a hill, that after three years is in terrible shape. How can anyone hope to build on standing water and expect it to be successful?

There would be lives lost as people unfamiliar with the mud flats venture out the 1/2 mile or so to water edge and rescue teams will be at a great disadvantage trying to access emergency situations.

What does the state say about condemning personal property for the usage of a few but vocal group?

Thank you for your time.



Wil, Darlene and Greg Bline  
1200 Shore Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99515  
907 344 6648

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MAY 15 1999

Senate Finance  
Committee

05/16/99 14:07:03 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM  
MESSAGE FROM: LIOCSAN IN ANCHORAGE

LTN1120  
JNU

RE TCN: 90773 SCHEDULED FOR:05/16/99 14:00 TO 17:00  
SPONSOR: SENATE FINANCE PURPOSE: PUBLIC HEARING

MESSAGE TEXT: PLEASE LET CHAIR KNOW THAT MIKE SZYMANSKI  
I IS HERE TO TEST W/TIME CONSTRAINT. DG

05/16/99 LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK SYSTEM  
14:07:15 PARTICIPANT LIST (TESTIFIERS ONLY)  
TCN:90773 SCHEDULED FOR:05/16/99 14:00 TO 17:00  
PUBLIC HEARING SENATE FINANCE

LTN1150  
BY:JNU  
FOR:ANC

LOCATION: ANCHORAGE

HB 131	✓ SANDRA	JONES	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ WAYNE	PICHON	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ DEANNA	ESSERT	TESTIFY
HB 131	DAVE	ADAMS	BAYSHORE/KLAT CCTESTIFY
HB 131	✓ MARY	WHITMORE	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ JANET	FEIERABEND	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ ED	DOKOOZIAN	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ JIM	DOKOOZIAN	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ SANDY	SIMPSON	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ PATRICIA	GARRITY	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ MIKE	SZYMANSKI	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ ROBERT	LAULE	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ BOB	BROCK	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ JIM	ARNESEN	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ PATRICK	WRIGHT	TESTIFY
HB 131	✓ DAVID	CARTER	TESTIFY

✓ Doug Parkins

(ms.)  
✓ Terry Burrell

✓ Vince Wethington

✓ J & A Lowenfels

2

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SIGN-IN

HB 131-ANCHORAGE COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

NAME: DICK BISHOP Subject/Bill No: HB 131  
Co./Dept./Title: AOC Vice Pres Phone: 455 4262  
Address: PUB 73902 Zip: 99707  
Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond To Questions

NAME: Odin Brudie Subject/Bill No: HB 131  
Co./Dept./Title: Self Phone: 586-1453  
Address: 512 6th St Juneau Zip: 99801  
Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond To Questions

NAME: Dennis Poshard Subject/Bill No: HB 131  
Co./Dept./Title: DOT&AF Phone: 465-3904  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond To Questions

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Subject/Bill No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co./Dept./Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you wish to testify?  Yes  No  Respond To Questions