

**SB**

**116**

**SFIN**

**FILE**

SB 116

was referred to the  
Senate Finance  
Committee

No hearing was held  
on this bill

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI  
GOVERNOR  
GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

P O Box 110001  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001  
(907) 465-3500  
FAX (907) 465-3532  
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

March 5, 2003

The Honorable Gene Therriault  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 107  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Therriault:

Under Authority of article III, section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill related to the state's air quality control program.

The State of Alaska has responsibility for management of air quality and recognizes that air permits are necessary to maintain Alaska's excellent air quality. The bill achieves protection of air quality while reforming the permit review process to make permitting predictable, reliable and rational. Specifically, the bill will:

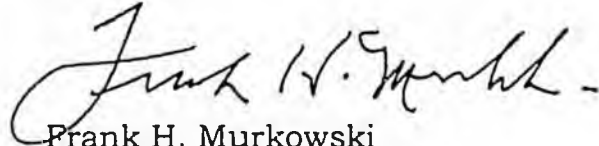
- Allow DEC's program to reflect national precedents, court decisions, and incorporate best practices from other states into our permits.
- Differentiate major source from minor source permits.
- Regulate minor sources based on standardized permit conditions that incorporate best management practices.
- Exempt sources based on standardized permit conditions that incorporate best management practices.
- Exempt sources from permitting to the extent allowed under federal law.
- Achieve efficiency through adopting federal rules by reference.

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In the end, the reform that this bill initiates will result in more efficient review of permits and more "hard-hat time" for field inspectors working to make sure standards are protective and permits are enforced.

I urge your prompt and favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski  
Governor