

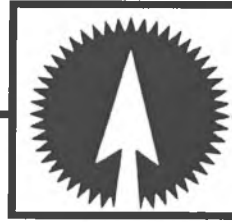
HB 77 (FILE 2)

<TARGET><BILL>HB 77</BILL><SUBJECT>HB 77 (FILE
2)</SUBJECT><COMM>SRES28</COMM></TARGET>

HB 77 Support Documents Index Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/12/2014

- 1.) Alaska Forest Association – Graham Owen – March 12, 2014
- 2.) Council of Alaska Producers – Karen Matthias – March 12, 2014
- 3.) Donlin Gold – Stan Foo – March 12, 2014
- 4.) Fish Habitat Group – March 10, 2014
- 5.) Resource Development Council/ Alaska Miners Association – Rick Rogers
and Deantha Crockett – January 24, 2014

Alaska Forest Association



111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
Phone: 907-225-6114
Fax: 907-225-5920

March 12, 2014

Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) is a private non-profit business association formed in 1957. AFA has over 100 businesses who are directly involved in the timber industry in Alaska, including logging companies, logging and construction (including road construction) companies, log towing and barging companies, logging consultants, owners of forest land, and owners of sawmills and companies which provide goods and services and other support to the timber industry in Alaska. AFA's mission is to promote a viable, socially responsible forest products industry. As part of our mission, AFA sponsors the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program for Alaska.

AFA supports CSHB 77, which provides statutory changes that will improve many of the State's permitting processes. Greater use of general permits and less onerous land sales, leasing and exchange procedures will help establish a more business friendly environment. Similarly, the proposed changes to the Water Use Act will give the State more flexibility to issue temporary water use permits, will remove a nuisance provision that currently prohibits people from carrying minor quantities of water from one hydrologic unit to another and will prevent the abuse of water reservations by limiting those reservations to federal or state agencies or political subdivisions of the state.

CSHB 77 regulatory improvements will help to reduce the State's cost of managing our resources and will reduce the cost, time and uncertainty associated with businesses use of those resources.

Sincerely,

Owen Graham
Executive Director
Alaska Forest Association
111 Stedman Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901



Council of
Alaska Producers

Comments HB 77
Land Use/Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights

March 12, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) appreciates the opportunity to express our continued support for House Bill 77: Land Use/Disp/Exchanges; Water Rights.

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. Bringing together mining companies with interest in Alaska, the Council represents and informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

In 2011, the Governor asked the resource agencies to review their permitting processes and propose ways to make them more efficient. This "permitting initiative" has included a significant outreach to stakeholders and a public process and CAP has been involved and supportive of this initiative since its inception. We have also supported the various bills passed in both 2012 and 2013 that have allowed the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to implement needed changes that allow for a timely and predictable permitting process for Alaskans while still maintaining rigorous science based protections for our environment. HB77 builds on these reforms that are already in place and we continue to support the bill as originally passed by the House in 2013.

On March 10, a Senate Resources Committee substitute for HB77 was introduced that makes several changes to the bill. While CAP does not object to these changes, we would like to make a few generalized comments regarding this version of the legislation.

This bill does not diminish the public process or remove Alaskans' ability to meaningfully comment in any way. By requiring participation at the initial stages of the process, when input is needed and can be practicably addressed, it ultimately strengthens Alaskans' ability to be heard.

General permits for small projects are common throughout the nation. Multiple states as well as the Corps of Engineers and the EPA utilize general permits for effective and efficient permitting of common activities that have minimal impact. The general permitting provisions in this bill will primarily benefit individual Alaskans who seek to do business on state land or water. This will also free up state resources to focus on larger development activities.

Finally, CAP strongly believes that the State should fulfill its constitutional mandate to manage our water for the maximum benefit of its people. Ensuring that in-stream water flow reservations are only held by state agencies allows them to properly balance needs for water while ensuring that sufficient flows remain for protecting fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation; recreation and parks; navigation and transportation; and sanitation and water quality as required by statute.

CAP has always maintained that permitting in Alaska must be rigorous, science based, transparent and predictable and HB77 fulfills that expectation. We thank you for hearing this bill and urge you to pass it out of committee in its current form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matthias", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Matthias
Managing Consultant



Tel: (907) 273-0200
Fax: (907) 273-0201

Donlin Gold
4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G-25
Anchorage, AK 99503

March 12, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Committee

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on CSHB 77.

Donlin Gold supports changes in law that improve regulatory efficiency and add clarity to the permitting process. We also support efforts to cut unnecessary red tape without diminishing important environmental standards.

Donlin Gold believes that CSHB77 strikes an important balance that provides for a rational framework for permitting natural resource development projects while protecting the public's right to participate in that process.

Donlin Gold believes it is important to have a robust and efficient regulatory regime and understands the difficulty in striking a balance that protects all public interests while reducing unnecessary obstacles to responsible development.

The state currently has an excellent model for agency coordination with its Large Mine Permitting Team process. We support efforts to ensure that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, while safeguarding Alaska natural resources.

Donlin Gold appreciates the effort by the administration and the legislature to develop this improved bill, and fully supports CSHB77.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stan Foo", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stan Foo
General Manager

Fish Habitat Group Letter

Dear Senator Micciche,

Thank you for taking a leadership role on HB 77.

Over the past several years, we have seen a trend to remove Alaskan voices from decisions that affect our fisheries resources, and HB 77 makes it even tougher for Alaskans to engage on basic issues that impact our fisheries and our livelihoods.

While we truly appreciate efforts to amend HB 77 to address the many issues it raises, we remain concerned the proposed changes will not go far enough to protect fish habitat, or the rightful role of Alaskans in protecting it.

For example, Alaskans should be able to challenge bad or illegal government decisions without having to face new, higher bars to standing. Regarding so-called temporary water use permits, they should not be open-ended, and they should receive public notice, otherwise Alaskans have no idea how much water will be drained from our surface and ground waters. Finally, Alaskans should be able to keep water in our salmon streams without the government ignoring their requests for years and years.

These are but a few of the issues that recently publicized changes to HB 77 implicate, and we hope you will continue to press for amendments that will create the balance and fairness needed to sustain our fish resources for years to come.

Thank you again for your work on this vital issue, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your work.

Signed,

cc: Senator McGuire, Senator Geisel, DNR, Governor's Office



HB 77 & Alaska's Instream Flow Permitting:

HB 77 addresses a number of permitting topics. This briefing paper focuses on only one of them: proposed changes to Alaska's instream flow water permitting.

Background

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources manages the permitting system for water use. It issues three kinds of authorizations for use of water.

Out-of-stream authorizations

- **Water right.** A water right allows anyone - a person, agency, business, etc., -- to withdraw or divert water from a stream or lake, or from groundwater. Examples of uses that would require a water right might be a water well for your duplex, a dam for hydropower (diverts a stream), or a fish processing plant that withdraws water from a creek. A water right is a property right and it is for a long-term or permanent use. To grant a water right, DNR must evaluate effects, if any, on fish habitat and other water users.

HB 77 makes *no* changes to the law governing water rights. It does not change public notice requirements or change who may qualify for a water right.

- **Temporary Water Use Authorization.** A temporary water use authorization (commonly called a TWUP) is similar to water right. It covers the same uses - any withdrawal, or diversion from a stream, lake, or groundwater. But a water right is a permanent property right; a TWUP does not convey a property right. It is for short-term uses, or uses for which the agency does not wish to convey a property right. Examples include water taken from a stream for road construction or for testing a pipeline, or withdrawing water from a lake to construct an ice-road on the north slope.

HB 77 does not change public notice requirements or change who qualifies for a TWUP. It does allow TWUP's to be renewed, rather than apply for a new permit. But a renewed permit has the same requirements of a new one.

Instream Authorizations

- **Instream Flow Reservation.** DNR may grant a property right to keep the water within a stream. This right *prohibits* others from withdrawing or diverting some water from the stream. It's called an instream flow reservation (because it keeps the water in the stream). Under current law, anyone - a person, agency, environmental

organization, etc. - may apply to keep water in a stream (prohibit others from using that water) to protect fish habitat, water quality, recreation, or navigation. In Alaska, all instream flow applications focus on keeping water in the stream or lake to protect fish habitat.

HB 77 *does* change the law with respect to *who* can apply for an instream flow application. It does not change anything else - the criteria, public notice requirement, etc. Only who may apply.

The Problem With the Current System

1. The current system focuses on who gets paperwork in first — not what's the right thing to do. Under the current system, when you have a large project that is multiple years in the planning, the decision on how to withdraw water, protect the fish, and promote economic development should be made with all the data, and with an understanding of all the environmental and social effects. It should not be based on who gets their paperwork in first. It should not be a paperwork race between an environmental group and the developer. But, recent court decisions and environmental groups' legal claims are making it a paperwork race. Two examples:

- ***Greenpeace, oil development, and the Kuparuk River.*** Water in a reservoir constructed adjacent to the Kuparuk River is used by the oil companies for oil exploration on the North Slope. They use it for ice roads and drilling. During the late 1990s, Greenpeace applied for an instream reservation for all of the water in the River (which they said was connected to the reservoir). They copied data from the Department of Fish and Game (Greenpeace didn't gather any new data), and applied to DNR for all of the winter water in the river. They wrote DNR saying essentially: "We have our application in first. Therefore, we have some rights, and until you adjudicate our application — which typically takes years — you cannot legally give any permits to allow oil companies to take water from the water reservoir. So please cancel all winter oil exploration on that part of the North Slope for a few years."

If DNR had accepted Greenpeace's legal argument, it would have stopped all winter oil exploration on that part of the North Slope. Instead, DNR and DF&G's hydrologists proved that the Reservoir (where the oil industry water take was located) was not connected to the Kuparuk River and wouldn't affect the fish - so Greenpeace's legal argument was irrelevant and the fish were protected. DNR avoided the paperwork race only by proving that the reservoir and river were not hydrologically connected. (After losing that fight to stop oil exploration, Greenpeace dropped their instream flow application).

- ***Chuitna Coal Project and a tributary to the Chuit River.*** A coal company is applying for permits to construct a coal mine on the west side of Cook Inlet. They cannot get permits unless DF&G and DNR determine that company has an appropriate method to protect the fish. But a coalition of environmental groups has asked to reserve the water that would otherwise be used by the mine. (They didn't gather any data - only copied data supplied by the mine developer to the agencies as background data for mine permitting).

Obviously, the right thing to do is to adjudicate the water and the mine permit together - to use all the data and the environmental impact statement process to determine the public interest, whether to allow the mine, and the best way to protect fish. Unfortunately, the environmental groups don't see it that way. They got their paperwork in first, and they believe their rights to the water should be determined first - even though there will be much more data available

later. If the environmental groups win, there will be no water available for the mine, and mine permitting will have to stop. The mine would not be permitted — not because it cannot protect the fish, but because the environmental groups got their paperwork in first. That is not good public policy.

2. **Why Give a Public Right to a Private Group?** An instream flow reservation is a right to keep water in the stream - to prohibit anyone else from withdrawing that water. It is typically a right designed to protect fish habitat. The right to protect fish habitat should be managed by the Department of Fish and Game - not by an individual, no matter how pure his motives or whether he's your friend. And an environmental group headquartered or funded from outside Alaska should not own the right. Or even one inside Alaska. It should be owned by the people and managed by our government for us.

Using one of the examples above, can you really imagine Alaska having to ask permission of Greenpeace to build an ice road on the North Slope? Giving Greenpeace an instream flow right to the Kuparak River would give them property rights to protect Alaska's fish, and to prohibit certain water withdrawals on the North Slope. If new data, hydrologic changes, or new methods to protect fish come along, should DF&G, DNR, and the state or oil companies be required to ask Greenpeace's permission to use a different way to protect fish? That's ridiculous. The keeper of the instream water rights should be the state agency funded and staffed to protect fish habitat: the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (or for federal land, a federal agency).

A private person has applied for the instream flow rights downstream of the proposed Susitna Dam. Do you really think that if the dam is constructed and DF&G and other state agencies determine that we should adjust flows from the dam, that we should have to go ask a private individual? These are public rights and they should be managed by a public agency.

Similarly, an outside environmental group applied for the instream flow rights downstream of the proposed Chakachamna Lake Hydro Project. If we gave those groups the instream water rights, we are giving them the right to block the proposed hydro project. Now, maybe the hydro project is a good idea; maybe it is a bad one. But why should the State of Alaska have to ask an outside environmental group for permission to build or modify it? Agency permit processes should be what determines the decision and should be what is used to protect our fish.

From these examples, one can see that an instream flow right effectively includes a portion of the development rights to major projects. Why would Alaska give the right to decide about Alaska's major resource projects to a multi-national environmental organization? Or even an individual Alaskan? Rather, decisions should be made through a transparent, rigorous permitting process that can involve all Alaskans.

Other states do not allow private individuals or multi-national environmental groups to own these rights. Alaska also should not.

HB 77's Solution: Only Public Agencies Should Hold Public Rights

HB 77 makes one change to the instream flow system: it limits instream flow applications to state or federal agencies. It makes no change in DNR's instream flow decision process or to public notice requirements. HB 77 solves the problems with the current system.

- **No longer a paperwork race.** Agencies are involved in the permitting process. They are deeply involved with environmental impact statements. They make the decisions when all the data is gathered, and during the permitting process. If agencies are the instream flow applicant, an instream flow process is not a paperwork race. It is done at the right time with all the data. HB 77 changes a paperwork race into a more intelligent permitting process.
- **The public holds the rights to public resources.** Agencies represent all the people, not just one sector. They should hold private rights used by all of us (i.e., rights to fish habitat). HB 77 eliminates the problem of having to ask a well-funded environmental group based elsewhere whether we can develop our resources, or whether we can change the methods to protect fish.

With respect to the water-permitting portion of HB 77, the bill makes minimal changes. It keeps most of the system the same as it is today but solves the problems with Alaska's instream flow permitting system. No other state tolerates the problems our instream flow system causes — Alaska shouldn't either.

Who is Affected?

85% of non-agency applications are intended to block projects

DNR has received over 300 applications for an instream flow reservation. The vast majority are from public agencies - mostly DF&G and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These applications are unaffected by HB 77.

In contrast to the almost 300 agency applications, DNR has received 34 applications from other groups. Of the 34 applications, over 85% (29 applications) were from groups opposed to a development projects. Applications are below:

Waterbody/Development Project	Year	Number of Aplns	Type of Group
Tanana River	1992	1	Non-profit
Duck Creek (nr Juneau)	1993	1	Env NGO
Lower Talarik Creek	2000	1	Env NGO
Eklutna River, AWWU Water Supply	2003	3	Tribe
Sinona Creek	2007	1	Tribe
Pebble-area Streams	2007-2009	20	Env NGO & Tribe
Chakachamna Hydro Project	2009	1	Env NGO
Wishbone Hill Coal Mine	2009	1	Tribe
Chuitna Coal	2010	3	Env NGO
Susitna Hydro	2011	1	Individual
Eyak Lake	2012	1	Env NGO

Applications re: development projects	29
Applications unrelated to projects	5
Total NGO Applications	34

It is worth emphasizing this record: over 85% of non-agency instream flow applications are only made after a major development project is proposed, and are made by groups

opposed to the project. Their purpose is at least partially to use the application to change or stop the agency permitting process.

Plagiarizing data. Of the 34 applications focused on development projects, most applicants did not gather any actual data. In most cases, they copied data gathered by the developer. Some of the Pebble-area applications included new data but most did not. Plagiarizing a developer's data, gathering no additional data on the ground, then asking for an environmental group to effectively hold some of the development rights for a project is not good public policy.

What happens to existing applications? Water rights and temporary water use authorizations are unaffected by HB 77. The vast majority of instream flow applications are made by agencies and are therefore unaffected by the bill. But non-agency groups have made 34 applications. Under HB 77, these 34 applications will not go away. DF&G said that it will take on those applications. DF&G will look at the application and the data, and evaluate whether the application is worth pursuing. Those that are valuable will become DF&G rather than NGO applications.

Conclusion. Some Alaskans favor Susitna Hydro, the Pebble Mine or the Wishbone Hill mine. Others oppose them. But decisions about these projects should be made by Alaskans through their government - not by environmental groups based outside Alaska, nor even by individual Alaskans. The permitting process should not be a paperwork race. And the rights to public resources — water for fish — should be held by agencies for the public, not by privately motivated individuals or groups, no matter how much we like them. HB 77 solves the problem with the current instream flow permitting system. It solves the problem with minimal changes - without affecting public notice or any other part of the process. With respect to instream flow permitting, HB 77 is a simple solution to a very real problem.

Contacts:

Resource Development Council
Rick Rogers, Executive Director
(907) 952-3967
rrogers@akrdc.org

Alaska Miners Association
Deantha Crockett, Executive Director
(907) 270-9234
deantha@alaskaminers.org

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #2
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/13/14

1. Alaska Miners Association, Deantha Crockett –March 13, 2014
2. Michael Jespersen –March 12, 2014
3. Frank Bergstrom –March 12, 2014
4. Francy Bennett –March 12, 2014
5. Phil St. George –March 12, 2014
6. Ken Hughes –March 12, 2014
7. Drew Miller–March 12, 2014
8. Jason Morrison –March 13, 2014
9. Larry Wilmarth –March 13, 2014
10. Deryl Box –March 13, 2014
11. Scott Spickler –March 13, 2014
12. Alicia Amberg –March 13, 2014
13. Daniel Siira –March 13, 2014
14. J P Tangen –March 13, 2014
15. Janyce Harpel –March 13, 2014
16. Pat Smith –March 13, 2014
17. LaDonna Fryar –March 13, 2014
18. Clifford Trull –March 13, 2014
19. Kevin Gray –March 13, 2014
20. Tim Musgrove –March 13, 2014
21. Gary Vivian –March 13, 2014
22. Marleanna Hall –March 13, 2014
23. Curt Dufendach –March 13, 2014
24. Nick Danger –March 13, 2014
25. John Shively –March 13, 2014
26. Ken Bauer –March 13, 2014
27. Pat Belec –March 13, 2014
28. Rob Retherford–March 13, 2014
29. Delbert Parr –March 13, 2014
30. Brett Fryar –March 13, 2014
31. Frank Larios –March 13, 2014
32. Ralph Hamm –March 13, 2014
33. Lance Roberts –March 13, 2014
34. Bill Jeffress –March 13, 2014
35. Bill Carmichael –March 12, 2014
36. Donald Stevens –March 12, 2014
37. John Lamborn –March 13, 2014
38. Jim Duffield –March 12, 2014
39. Alaska Chamber of Commerce, Rachel Petro –March 12, 2014
40. Anna Atchison –March 13, 2014
41. Steven Bills, TonaTec Exploration –March 13, 2014
42. Corrie Krezel –March 13, 2014
43. Randal Powelson –March 13, 2014
44. Jorge Azpilcueta –March 13, 2014

Thank you. My name is Deantha Crockett, I am Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association.

AMA is the trade association representing Alaska's mining industry. Our members include small, placer mining operations, large hardrock and coal mines, mining projects in the exploration phase, and vendors and contractors that do business with the mining industry.

AMA is on the record of supporting HB77 when the bill was heard last year, and we remain very supportive of the provisions outlined in the committee substitute. There are a few key provisions in this version that AMA feels will help encourage investment in Alaska's mining industry.

This has not excluded opportunities for public input. Since starting the permitting reform initiative in 2011, the state permitting agencies have consulted with hundreds of Alaskans, with many public meetings and stakeholder input to develop initiatives that improve our permitting system. Hb77 is the third bill resulting from that effort.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 clearly states there is requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. These cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 also requires that appeals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. We believe this brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Critically, HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise at our state resource agencies.

I call attention to the document in your packet and posted to basis that we put together with Resource Development Council to specifically outline why management of our water resources by state agencies is critical. Clearly, water reservations are being used to stop, block and certainly delay projects, particularly in my industry, but in the oil and gas utilities sectors as well. Water should be managed by state agencies with the expertise and capability to most effectively manage Alaska's water bodies, and we feel that hb77 does that.

We commend this committee and the Parnell Administration for the CS version H of HB77 and think it is best for Alaska's economy that this bill be passed and enacted as soon as possible. Thank you!

From: Michael Jespersen

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:03 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: sen.bertha.gardne@akleg.gov

Subject: HB77 Please place these comments in the official record

Chairperson Senator Giessel and Senator Gardner,

I wanted to testify on HB77 today but didn't get the opportunity. I am sending this while I sit in the Anchorage LIO.

The format isn't great here as it was originally intended to be given verbally. Here it is anyway:

HB77

Have people read this bill when they say public comments are not allowed? The bill allows public comment prior to any permit being issued. The bill allows for a reasonable time period to challenge a permit after it has been issued.

After a permit is issued and the challenge period is passed, this bill requires organizations and people show they are being harmed prior to being able to challenge the permit.

Prior to any development rigorous scientific work must be done and approved by many governmental agencies for permits to be issued. Current law allows whomever gets paperwork done first to get a water reservation permit. That gives an advantage to anyone wanting to block development as they do not need anywhere near the same level of rigor required by developers.

Pass HB77 it allows public testimony and requires people to show harm if they choose to challenge a permit after it is issued.

Now that you had a chance to read my comments as I wanted to deliver them in verbally I'd like to say a few additional things.

1-Anchorage has more people than any other area of the state yet other LIO's and people calling in (Nequist, 3 people on one phone line got 2 minutes each without moving to other areas. Sorry I spelled the village wrong I couldn't find the proper spelling) get the same or more time than the people in Anchorage. That is not taking "balanced comment". The same number of people at each LIO doesn't

take into account size of each community. I cannot call in nor travel to another LIO to improve my chances of being heard.

2- If HB77 stifles public comment and the words "... not less than 30 days..." do not allow enough time for people to comment, how within 48 hours did so many people myself included learn about the bill and get to the LIO's to testify? Please note I took unpaid time off from work to go to the LIO today.

3-Since the State Government is charged with protecting the natural resources of Alaska's people it makes sense that only the State should hold water reservations. Please re read point #3 this time keeping in mind that I do not trust the government of Alaska, Anchorage of the Federal Government to have the best inter3ests of my family and I in mind.

And by the way, I also depend on fish to live. I catch my personal use limit every year and try to get more fish on a sport license. I do not fish for fun or to sell my fish, I fish to eat. I do not believe that HB77 will damage my nor anyone else's ability to fish.

Respectfully,

Michael Jesperson

Anchorage AK 99507

From: Frank Bergstrom

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 6:23 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; 'Sen'; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

Honorable Senators:

Please accept these comments regarding HB77 per today's Senate Resources hearing. As an independent Alaska consultant specializing in permitting, regulatory affairs, and project management in the mining industry, the reforms listed in the current HB77 draft are greatly needed to facilitate a viable industry. Year after year permitting grows in length, cost, and scope (aka derail the permitting process are manifold, while the path to successful permit issuance has become increasingly convoluted and narrow – similar to a dirt road being converted by the forces of nature from a smooth running surface to a tangle of alder and salmon berry. Hard to see your way through and even harder to traverse.

Alaska was granted 101 million acres of land at statehood for the purpose of establishing an economy. Our permitting processes – always robust – have gravitated toward increasing ease of disruption and failure. The goal of our permitting process should be to advance the State's economy through good environmental and social stewardship of our land, air, water, and biological resources – not simple preservation. If we were only interested in preservation we would close down Fish Game because there would be no need to manage the resource. Since we do wish to manage, enhance, and maintain; i.e., conserve our resources, we need to write good permits and enforce them, not deny them.

Case in point is water use permits as noted in HB77. These are commonly requested by mining companies because there is no interest in establishing perpetual property rights, only the temporary use of the resource. Is this not a good thing? Mines only ask for the water for as long as it is needed. The idea is to take as little as one needs and leave no trace. Companies ask only to use land and water for as long as the mineral resour

General permits are long overdue for the relatively inconsequential, perfunctory, and low impact actions required to put Alaskan lands into economic use. That is, leases, rights-of-way, entry permits, etc. should be available within the timeframe of the small operator. Small operators do not have the luxury of deep pockets and infinite resources to gamble on projects several years out. Time value of money suggests no project several years out would likely pay. Alaskans need the ability to access their land in a time frame consistent with their ability to finance; i.e., less than one year. There is no environmental reason this cannot happen, and it would be greatly facilitated by the thoughtful availability of general permits.

Larger mining operations should not be at the mercy of advocacy groups bent on stopping economic activity on State land. Again, promotion of economic activity is why the State has the land in the first place. HB77 goes a long way to maintain meaningful Alaskan input to the permitting process while helping curtail disruptive efforts to derail and halt permit issuance. All my friends and neighbors in the dollars). Opportunities to

mining industry are Alaskans. For whom else would these lands be used? Derailing and halting permits is not active environmental stewardship, it is preservation through neglect.

Best regards, Frank Bergstrom

From: Francy Bennett
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:13 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Fw: I support HB77

Sen. Giessel,
I didn't have time to get to the LIO today, but here is the letter I sent to Sen. French in support of HB77.

Sen. Micciche,
Thank you for the work you did in making the bill more palatable to the fishermen and people who live near the water. I grew up in a number of villages on the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta and know how important fishing and hunting water animals is to livelihoods and subsistence lifestyles.

Sincerely,
Francy Bennett
Anchorage

On Wednesday, March 12, 2014 4:52 PM, Francy Bennett wrote:

Dear Sen. French:

I support HB77 because it implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

CSHB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in CSHB77 help address the cause of the backlogs.

CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise.

CSHB77 diminishes the ability of ENGOs to abuse the system and stop projects.

This bill will help cut the red tape and put Alaskans back to work.

I urge you to support the bill.

Your constituent,
Francy Bennett
3619 Aldren Circle
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: "Phil St. George"

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:25:10 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: VOTE YES on HB77

Please support and vote yes on HB77. This is a good bill that does not exclude any public opinion and will help speed development. Alaska is losing investment dollars due to EPA's rhetoric on Pebble and Bristol Bay. Exploration dollars are already drying up and some good news that would make the permitting process speedier would be some good news for companies considering investing in Alaska. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Phil St. George

Eagle River

From: Ken Hughes

Date: March 12, 2014 at 10:18:14 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please pass HB77!

Dear legislators:

I understand that Wednesdays public hearing on HB77 was well attended by preservationists that undoubtedly used cell phones, computers, and the internet to assemble the demonstration of force they showed. Good thing there is mining to provide all those minerals that were necessary to manufacture those things! Ya know, if they really wanted to walk their talk they would use smoke signals!

The AMA's State Oversight Committee has reviewed the bill and is supportive of all provisions, which do encourage public input and make the processes we deal with in the mining industry more effective, efficient, and predictable. As the Nome Branch Chairman of the AMA I would like to emphasize the importance of mining to our local community, and how vital having an effective, efficient, and especially predictable permitting system is to the industry.

Pleas vote to pass HB77 as soon as possible!

Best Regards,

Ken Hughes
Nome Branch Chairman
Alaska Mining Association
Box 1430
Nome, AK 99762

From: Drew Miller

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:59:35 PM AKDT

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: VOTE YES ON HB77

As a 4th Generation Alaskan gold miner, I support HB77 and I encourage you to vote YES in support of HB77. As an active placer miner in interior Alaska and a member of the Alaska miners association, we have been following HB77 closely. I believe that HB77 provides improvements to the permitting process for development in Alaska. Having myself been involved recently in the state permitting process, I believe that the reforms presented in HB77 are needed, recently a permit that I submitted went un-responded to for 6 months, when a 30 day response was expected.

I also urge you to review support and non-support emails and letters, such as this, for content and not solely on quantity of responses. I believe that sometimes non support groups are more easily rallied into publicly voicing their option than supporters. I am writing to you tonight because I support HB77, and would like my voice to be heard. I hope that many others like myself will also take the time to make their voices heard.

Sincerely,

--

Drew Miller, PE
Taiga Mining Co.

From: Jason Morrison Personal
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:51 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77

I make a living with the waters of Alaska.

Please make sure and support HB77.

Thanks.

From: Larry Wilmarth
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:19 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Vote yes . A vote for more efficient gov't.

From: Deryl Box

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:40 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 Support

Dear Senators,

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

I support HB77 and ask that you support it.

Thank you for your time,

Deryl Box - Sales Manager - Fairbanks

Construction Machinery Industrial

Office: (907) 455-9600

From: Scott Spickler

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:44 AM

To: Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson;
Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Subject: HB 77

I would like to urge your support in passing HB 77 without further delay. This bill provides the best science based process and management by our Governmental agencies.

Thank you,

Scott Spickler

10754 Horizon Dr.

Juneau, AK. 99801

From: Alicia Amberg
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:56 AM
Subject: HB77 Support Letter

Senate Resources Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of HB77, an Act on Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights. In the past year or so, the State of Alaska has embarked on an initiative to improve permitting statewide, and I believe HB77 is a giant step towards accomplishing that objective, especially in times of budget cutbacks.

My family owns and operates a remote placer mine in the Interior of Alaska, and if HB77 does not pass, this can tie up the permitting process even worse than it already is—in turn, compromising our livelihood.

This bill will streamline the permitting process so family operations like ours can stay in business. HB77 contains many elements that are good for Alaska's economy while protecting our environment, including the unnecessarily controversial water rights aspect.

I urge you to pass this bill as written, and ensure our permitting process is transparent, predictable, and is truly what is best for Alaska. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Alicia Amberg
3140 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Daniel Siira
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:22 PM
Subject: HB77 Support Letter

March 13, 2014

Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Senate Resources Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of HB77, an Act on Land Disposals/Exchanges; Water Rights.

In the past year, the State of Alaska has embarked on an initiative to improve permitting statewide, and I believe HB77 is a giant step towards accomplishing that objective.

I am a young, 5th generation Alaskan and my family has claims in Nome, which I hope to mine someday with my future family. If HB77 does not pass, this can tie up the permitting process even worse than it already is—in turn, compromising our livelihood. Small-scale family miners are motivated to keep our environment safe and clean, but the spirit and livelihood on which our state was built is breaking down due to the inefficiency of the permitting process.

This bill will streamline the permitting process so family operations can stay in business. HB77 contains many elements that are good for Alaska's economy while protecting our environment, including the unnecessarily controversial water rights aspect.

I urge you to pass this bill as written, and ensure our permitting process is transparent, predictable, and is truly what is best for Alaska. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Daniel Siira

3140 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:55 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: assistant@gci.net

Subject: HR 77

Dear Senator –

Opponents of HR 77 are blatantly disingenuous. The change will obviate unneeded red tape and the associated waste of public funds when dealing with large numbers of applications which, even collectively, are insignificant. The objective of the opponents is simply to shackle development irrespective of risk to habitat or the environment. As written the bill will not preclude responsible state agencies from judiciously evaluating applications using objective legal and scientific standards.

NR 77 is a worthy measure that will curtail government waste while not placing Alaska waters at risk

Please support this positive change in the law.

J P Tangen

From: Harpel, Janyce
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:48 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: HB77 - Permitting Reform Bill

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment. HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you,
Janyce Harpel
Project Coordinator
Administrative Manager

SRK Consulting (U.S.), Inc.

Suite E-12, 4700 Business Park Blvd, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503, USA

Tel: +1-907-677-3520; Fax: +1-907-677-3620

www.srk.com

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P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Pat and Janet Smith
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 - Please Vote Yes

Senator Giessel,

I am a geologist and have had the pleasure to explore for minerals in Alaska for over 20 of my 35 year career. I lived in Anchorage and managed the exploration office of Kennecott Exploration from 1997 through 2001. I am currently president of Heatherdale Resources and we are advancing the Niblack Project on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska.

HB77 will implement changes that will provide certain response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

I believe that HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thanks and Best Regards,
Pat
Pat Smith
5106 East Glenaire Dr
Spokane, WA 99223
USA

From: LaDonna Fryar
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:20 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Vote yes HB 77

Vote yes on HB77. As a small
Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.
Sincerely,
LaDonna Fryar, Member,
FGMGV LLC

You may reach me for comment at any time through our national direct line number:
(Dr Brett Fryar, COO)
Or through my email. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Clifford Trull

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 7:59 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: VOTE YES HB 77

Vote yes on HB77.

As a small Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Clifford Trull, Member,
FGMGV LLC

From: Kevin Gray

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:22 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 - Support and Yes Vote

Hello Senators:

Thank you for your hearings on HB77 – it is important that the Senate Resources Committee find out the facts relating to this pending legislation. As someone who is intimately involved in the mining industry in Alaska, it is extremely important to consider some of the same barriers to investment in our state that the oil & gas industry also faces, namely: a fair and rigorous permitting process and a stable tax regime. HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty as well as a timely response to Alaskans that wish to obtain permits, while maintaining a fair and rigorous permitting process under an efficiently run state agency.

HB77 strives to streamline (to the extent that it should) minor project permitting through the issuance of general permits where practical. HB77 also provides for appropriate public notice, and provides the opportunity for public input on any general permit. These general permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permitting under existing statutes and are not unprecedented – both Federal and State agencies currently utilize general permits already.

HB77 also brings accountability to the permitting and appeals process, in that appeals can only be brought by those directly and negatively impacted by a decision. This ensures that appeals can be brought only by a directly affected stakeholder, rather than a special interest (often outside Alaska) attempting to block any and all permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: our State of Alaska resource agencies with solid scientific backgrounds and Alaskan experience.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote Yes on HB77.

Best Regards,
Kevin Gray
Chief Financial Officer

Alaska Earth Sciences
11401 Olive Lane
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Tim Musgrove

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:23 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough

Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Support for HB77

Importance: High

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I, Tim Musgrove a year round resident and recreational miner of Soldotna, Alaska ask you to support and pass the new version of HB77. There is a lot of opposition to this bill by groups that protest any development projects in Alaska, but this bill needs to be passed. The State of Alaska needs to continue to move forward on building a smoother permitting system for all projects in the state. In reality the passage of HB77 is important to all of Alaskans that have read and understand it. In closing I stand in support of the passage of HB77, please let my voice be heard.

Sincerely,

Tim Musgrove

From: Gary Vivian

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:25:39 AM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77

Reply-To: <gary.vivian@aurorageosciences.com>

Dear Senators; Please accept this correspondence to provide full support for Bill HB77. I strongly urge a "YES" vote.

Respectfully,

--

Gary Vivian, M.Sc., P.Geol.
President
Aurora Geosciences Ltd
3506 McDonald Drive
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2H1

-----Original Message-----

From: MARLEANNA HALL

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:01 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Support of CS HB 77

Good morning Senator Giessel:

Thank you for your consideration of my comments in support of Senate Resources passing CS HB 77. As a lifelong Alaskan, I support economic opportunities across the state. I am lucky to have a job I truly enjoy and hope the same for my son when he goes to work in our great state.

Alaskan projects see more and more opposition from Outside, and misuse of our responsible permitting process and state regulations. I believe CS HB 77 will reduce the ability of ENGOs to abuse the system and stop projects.

I also believe the bill will provide certainty in the permitting process.

Our permitting and regulatory process is one of the best in the world and this bill will help make it more efficient. We can and will do it right in Alaska, and putting Alaskans to work is a benefit of this bill.

Again, I urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass CS HB 77 and thank you for your support of this bill.

Thank you,
Marleanna Hall
15610 Kings Way Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Curt Dufendach
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:07 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

I support HB77
Please vote yes
Thanks

Curt Dufendach
Delta Industrial Services
PO box 1109
Delta Jct. Ak.
99737

-----Original Message-----

From: Nick Danger

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:03 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Vote

Yes on HB 77

Nicholas Danger

From: John Shively

Date: March 13, 2014 at 4:41:17 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77

Dear Sen. Giessel:

I support the revised version of HB 77. People in government often talk about improving the regulatory process, but it seems only to get more difficult. HB 77 is an opportunity to improve the state's regulatory system. I hope you will support it.

John

John Shively
Chairman

From: Ken Bauer
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:22 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Sincerely
Ken Bauer
Operations & Sales Manager
Spill Shield Inc.

From: Pat Belec

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:25 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 - DNR Permitting

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

I am and have been an Alaskan for thirty years. Here in Juneau we enjoy hundreds of highly paid miners working at Greens Creek and Kensington. We like the mining industry and encourage further development of this well regulated and bountiful industry in our region and across the State. HB77 is an effort to improve the State of Alaska permitting system, optimize State agency resources, and help ensure timely processing of permit requests. I can see no short cuts or corner cutting via issuance of general permits or suggested reform of water reservations. Clearly, any person may file for a reservation and it will be processed without bias and retain appropriate seniority. A complete application would be required, including adequate stream flow data. All these are commonsense, workman like, and effective means to help improve permit processing efficiency, while maintaining free, open, and meaningful public involvement. Congratulations on producing good legislation. Please proceed to pass this important legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Patricia Belec

PO Box 22909

Juneau, AK 99802

From: Rob Retherford

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:37 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough;
Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Fred Dyson

Subject: HB 77

Below are points that I agree with and support as a citizen of Alaska and as a small business owner in Alaska since 1985:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you for your time and effort to insure Alaskans maintain a strong economy while developing our resources wisely!

Rob Retherford

Robert M. Retherford
President
Alaska Earth Sciences
11401 Olive Lane
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Delbert Parr
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:47 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Yes Vote on HB77

Dear Senator Giessel:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial. Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward. HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. It is critical that our water resources not be managed by outside interests solely for the purpose of stopping future development.

Respectfully,
Delbert Parr
2267 Franklin Street
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Brett Fryar

Date: March 13, 2014 at 12:55:39 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Hb77

Vote yes on HB77. As a small

Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brett Fryar, Member, COO,

FGMGV LLC

From: Larios, Frank
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject:
Importance: High

I SUPPORT and ASK FOR A YES VOTE on HB77!!!

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise!!!

From: Ralph Hamm

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: i support HB77 please vote for it. ralph hamm

From: Lance Roberts <roberts.lance@gmail.com>

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:41:18 AM AKDT

To: Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, Fred Dyson <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, Peter Micciche <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, Lesil McGuire <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, Anna Fairclough <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, Hollis French <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77 General Permitting

Reply-To: <Roberts.Lance@gmail.com>

To the Senate Resources committee:

Please support HB77, Permitting Reform. General permitting is a very common sense way to speed up our incredibly onerous process. It will not only help those seeking permits, but enable us to do more permitting with less funding.

Thanks,

Lance Roberts

Fairbanks, AK

From: "Jeffress, Bill"

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:50:19 AM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel,

As you are aware, the State of Alaska has been systematically improving the permitting process to better serve the citizens and provide opportunities for economic development. It is a shame that we have a very vocal minority bent on impeding or completely stopping all opportunities for economic development in Alaska. HB 77 is simply the legislation needed to clearly establish how certain aspects of resource development and resource users move forward in the permitting or approval process. This legislation sets the side bars for the applicant and sets reasonable standards for appeals to minimize the ever increasing number of frivolous anti-anything challenges to development and the permitting process.

If those opposing passage of HB 77 ever went through the present permitting process, they would appreciate the efforts made by the Administration to implement changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. It would be an interesting exercise to ask those testifying against HB 77 if in fact they have actually read the bill or have just bought into the anti-development NGO rhetoric.

Please continue to be a leader and vote for what is best for Alaska and not be swayed by the vocal minority that are bent on moving Alaska backward rather than establishing a sustainable economy.

Best Regards,

Bill Jeffress

2031 Brandilyn Street

Anchorage, Alaska 99516

From: Bill Carmichael
Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:21:39 PM AKDT
To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB77
Senator Giessel,

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Bill Carmichael

Fix the problem not the blame

From: Donald Stevens

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:50:29 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Your Support of HB77 is Crucial for the future of the mining industry in Alaska

Senator: I am a minerals exploration geologist with over 43 years of full time exploration experience here in Alaska.

HB77 includes changes that will provide certainty to Alaskans and industries that obtain permits and will allow state agencies to be more efficient, which is desperately needed during these times of financial stress. One of the key words related to HB77 is certainty. The mining industry must have certainty related to the permitting processes and its ability to develop and operate a mine. No rational organization is going to invest millions of dollars in a mining property if there is no certainty that the development and mining can proceed under a rational permitting system.

The preemptive veto soon to be issued by the EPA regarding the Pebble Prospect, before any mine permit applications have been filed by the mining company, has already damaged Alaska's reputation as a mining-friendly jurisdiction. We need your support of HB77 to show the global mining industry that Alaska and most Alaskans do support the industry and understand its need for certainty.

If HB77 fails to pass, it will result in Alaska's water resources being managed by those who are anti-development and seek only to stop or hinder projects. The statistics on non-agency instream flow applications prove this assertion.

Our great state will no longer be sustainable once most development projects are blocked.

Don

Donald L. Stevens Ph. D., CPG
Stevens Exploration Management Corp.
1048 W. Int'l. Airport Road, Suite 103
Anchorage, AK 99518

From: John Lamborn
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:31 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB-77

Senator Giessel,

It sounds like the anti's didn't have to work today. Maybe they don't have jobs. I was at mine and missed the hearing on HB-77. I just want to send in my letter of support for all the work that has been done on this bill and support the bill. Please vote for it.

Sincerely,

John C. Lamborn
Project Manager,
Cruz Construction

From: Jim Duffield <duff_cpa@hotmail.com>

Date: March 12, 2014 at 9:52:10 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77 vote Yes!!

Please vote yes on HB 77, I support it and want you too.

Sent from my iPhone

Jim Duffield



Testimony
CSHB 77- Land Disposals/Exchanges: Water Rights
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Good afternoon Madam Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Rachael Petro and I am the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. The Alaska Chamber is a statewide membership organization made up of all sizes and types of businesses from across Alaska.

The Alaska Chamber's primary mission is to advocate for policies that improve Alaska's business climate. The Alaska Chamber is the most diverse statewide pro-business organization. With that come serious challenges... not unlike those you face among your colleagues here in this committee and in the Legislature. When the diverse membership of the Alaska Chamber agree on an issue – it's a little bit amazing. One thing Alaska Chamber members do agree on is that efficient, predictable and common sense regulations and permitting processes are integral to creating an environment in which businesses, new and old, can succeed.

Alaska Chamber members continue to support Alaska's world class environmental standards which guide development of Alaska's natural resources. We also support streamlining those regulations and policies where bureaucratic and business efficiencies can be gained.

The Alaska Chamber supports the provisions within CSHB 77 because they provide clarity, eliminate unnecessary processes, and modernize statutes based on the experience gained over many years from the professional staff within the Department of Natural Resources.

It is our belief that the changes to HB 77 provide additional clarity while still making common sense improvements to DNR's permitting process. The CS to HB 77 is a satisfactory compromise that we believe should receive broad bipartisan support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

From: Anna Atchison
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:05 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: Support for CSHB 77

The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Anna Fairclough
Senator Hollis French
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: CSHB 77

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I am writing to express support of CSHB 77 as it is heard in committee this week. Alaska needs to remain open for business and I support the state's efforts to keep that open sign polished and visible. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone extensive review to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

And, thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in CSHB77 help address the cause of the backlogs. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise. The bill improves efficiencies in the issuance of General Permits, diminishes the chronic backlog in permitting, results in cost savings to the state, while protecting the environment. HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial. HB77 also provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically.

Lastly, HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

In closing, HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. This is something I believe all Alaskans can agree is best for our state!

Thank you for all you do for our great state,
Anna

Anna Atchison
Fairbanks

From: Steve Bills
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:09 AM
To: Steve Bills
Subject: HB77

I am in hopes you will support HB77 as I believe calls for changes that will responsibly provide a timely response to Alaskans when obtaining permits while still maintaining plenty of time for input for the public. It also requires appeals only to people directly impacted which I believe brings accountability to the process. HB77 will make the permitting process much more efficient, predictable, and timely if implemented. For these reasons I would hope you would join me in support of this bill.

Thanks

Steve Bills
General Manager
TonaTec Exploration

From: corrie krezel
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: support 4 hb77

Dear Honorable Senator, Please vote yes on hb77, it's good for ALASKANS. The propaganda against it is typically untrue. Best regards, Stan Krezel, Wasilla

From: Powelson, Randal
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:26 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: I support HB-77

Senator Giessel

I have read HB-77 and support this measure. I am a professional Mining Engineer with over 20 years mining industry experience, including major mine permitting.

HB-77 brings much needed clarity to Alaska Natural Resource development.

The bill allows the State of Alaska the same ability to manage Alaska Public Lands that the US Secretary of Interior is now vested with.

Alaska's economy is currently in a death spiral.... Yes, a death spiral for Alaska's future.

Could the Alaska pipeline be built today? No, We can't even get the gas line off the ground.

At the end of the day... SOMEONE MUST PAY THE BILLS!

The current system of endless environmental appeals and obstruction is killing the state.

It often takes COURAGE to do the "Right Thing". Do the "Right Thing" and support HB-77.

Thank you.

Randy Powelson
CAT Mining Equipment Rep
NC Machinery Fairbanks, AK

From: GUSTAVO AZPILCUETA

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:18 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: deantha@alaskaminers.org; alma@memberclicks-mail.net

Subject: SUPPORT and ASK FOR A YES VOTE on HB77

Senate Resources Committee:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Regards

Jorge G Azpilcueta

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #3
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/14/14

1. Stephen Connelly –March 13, 2014
2. Kati Capozzi –March 13, 2014
3. Matthew Fagnani –March 13, 2014
4. Jennifer Keese –March 13, 2014
5. Howard Grey –March 13, 2014
6. Jason Morrison –March 13, 2014
7. Maynard Tapp –March 13, 2014
8. Scarlett Adam –March 13, 2014
9. Cory Bodyfelt –March 13, 2014
10. Anchorage Sand and Gravel Co., Inc., Wes VanderMartin –March 13, 2014
11. Rene Edelman Azzara
12. Allen Hippler –March 13, 2014
13. Peter Macksey –March 13, 2014
14. Bernie Hart –March 13, 2014
15. Larry Cooper –March 13, 2014
16. Tom, Susan, & Sam Maloney –March 13, 2014
17. Charles Hammond –March 13, 2014
18. Wally McGregor –March 13, 2014
19. Resource Development Council, Rick Rogers –March 12, 2014
20. Jim Halloran –March 13, 2014
21. Amanda Shaw –March 13, 2014
22. Carl Portman –March 13, 2014
23. Michael Ferris –March 13, 2014
24. Lorali Simon –March 13, 2014
25. Brian Benson –March 13, 2014
26. Francy Bennett –March 13, 2014
27. Steve Denton –March 13, 2014
28. Paul Glavinovich –March 12, 2014
29. Kristina Walcott –March 12, 2014
30. First Things First Alaska Foundation, Neil MacKinnon –March 13, 2014
31. Kevin Greenfield –April 5, 2013
32. Russell Lowney –March 14, 2014
33. Tony Wilson –March 14, 2014
34. Peggy Spittler –March 14, 2014
35. John Braham –March 14, 2014
36. Ella Ede –March 14, 2014
37. Richard Green –March 14, 2014
38. Karen Clautice –March 14, 2014
39. Darwin Green –March 14, 2014
40. Jay Armstrong –March 14, 2014
41. Mark & Kim Huffington –March 13, 2014
42. Cheryl Thyng –March 13, 2014
43. Katherine Lewis –March 13, 2014
44. Mahana Petersen –March 13, 2014

From: Connelly, Stephen
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 2:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing in support of CSHB77. ENGOs are abusing the current system and using it solely to stop projects. Of the applications received by other than government agencies, 85% were from groups opposed to a development project. Decisions about these projects should be made by Alaskans through their government and not by groups or individuals.

CSHB77 solves this problem with the current in stream flow permitting system with minimal changes. It does not affect public notice or any other part of the process. It ensures that water resources will be managed by State agency personnel with science based expertise.

I support this bill and ask that you also do so.

Regards,

Steve Connelly

11860 Nebesna Dr.

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Kati
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:40 PM
Subject: Support for HB 77

Dear Senator,

See my prepared written testimony I was hoping to have a chance to give yesterday during the public hearing. I plan to try again tomorrow.

I understand you're busy and may not have the time to read the testimony- the bottom line is that I am in support of HB 77.

Thank you,

Kati Capozzi
Eagle River, Alaska

--

Good afternoon Chairman Giessel, vice-chair Dyson, and members of the Senate Resources Committee, for the record my name is Kati Capozzi and I'm testifying today on behalf of myself.

I am in support of CS HB77. The well thought out changes introduced to HB77 earlier this week sufficiently address the concerns that have been voiced while still achieving the original intent of the bill- to implement a more efficient permitting process.

As an Alaskan who cares about protecting the environment that I call home, and also understanding that I would not live here without natural resource development, I am pleased that this bill has struck a balance that protects Alaskans interests and helps us get to work.

Thank you for your due diligence on this bill and for your service to the state.

From: On Behalf Of Matthew Fagnani

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:59 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

March 3, 2014

Dear Senate Resource Committee members:

First of all thank you for taking up HB 77. Throughout my career, I have been a pro-resource supporter. I usually take issues like these and ask myself the question that Governor Knowles used to ask "is Alaska open for business". If your answer is yes, then I appreciate you taking up this bill for debate. For me, I have always felt that the permitting process we have in place is long and drawn out. It is discouraging. Alaska as a resource producing State should have streamlined permitting process's rather than a permitting procedures that is cumbersome, drawn out, and discourages rather than encourage exploration and development.

HB 77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

I like the fact that HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Furthermore, HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise. Eliminating the feeling and emotions of a project and relying on scientifically based reasoning.

It is common knowledge that NGOs abuse the system and for the sole purpose of killing projects. HB 77 diminishes their ability, to me that is good news. I am also a big proponent of legislation that reduces the red tape and put Alaskans back to work.

I commend you for taking up HB 77, so let's work together to pass this legislation out of committee and onto the floor for a vote. Doing so shows that Alaska is open for business.

Respectfully submitted:

Matthew Fagnani

2559 Loussac Dr

Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: Jennifer Dawn

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:54 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77, the Permitting Reform bill

Dear Senators,

Please take some time to read my email.

I am an employee at the Department of Natural Resources, working as a state regulator. I will be involved in a large permitting project in the near future and strongly believe in the Department and the Division of Mining Land and Water's ability to make valid and best interest permitting decisions for the state's natural resources.

I am also a member of the Alaska Miner's Association and agree with many of the points they are making in regard to this bill:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

In my job I deal daily with a great deal of money and time spent on replies that are deliberately placed by non-governmental agencies to distract and delay from the regulated permitting process. This accountability to the appeals process may be one way to help curb some of this unnecessary "work" being done by state professional employees, such as geologist, hydrologists and engineers whose time is better spend analyzing science, rather than making copies of permit documents or responding to the same non-scientific questions multiple times.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keese

From: Howard Grey

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:02 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB-77

To: Senate Resources Committee

Subject: HB-77

First of all I would like to say I strongly support the version of HB-77 now before the Senate Resources committee.

The proposed legislations purpose is mainly housekeeping to streamline existing permitting systems and make them more efficient, timely and hopefully cost efficient.

In particular I have followed that portion of HB-77 dealing with water use and reservations. To start with Alaska's original Water Use Act and regulatory framework is probably the best in the nation. Because of our late entry into the Union we were able to draw upon the experience of other western states to craft a document that fairly addresses the needs of all Alaskan's and emphasizes appropriation based on actual use. The Act provides for industrial, agricultural, community and a variety of individual uses. It is not just important it is vital that the Water Use Act and any future revisions or changes maintain these same attributes if Alaska is to continue to grow and prosper.

There are always individuals or groups, often well meaning, that will attempt to use or abuse the system for a particular purpose sometimes without first considering the negative impacts of their actions. One such attempt has been the wholesale filing for large water reservations in a number of locations. HB-77 in part addresses this concern and provides Alaska State Agencies the latitude to maintain the integrity of the original Act. Allowing any kind of large scale drainage area reservations could be a disaster for future growth of our state.

I would suggest that we continue to depend on the expertise of our State's water use professionals and make sure they have the latitude to perform their duties. I believe that HB-77 will help accomplish this. For the record I was involved with the Alaska water use program almost from its onset. At that time I worked for the Department of Natural Resources. I continue to be concerned about water and other resources since these contributed to statehood and continue to be paramount for our future.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and ask that you contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Howard J. Grey

Regards,

From: Morrison, Jason
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Ms. Giessel,

Please provide support for HB77.

It is not in the bests interest of out of state persons to drive the ability of Alaska when it comes to development.

Section 1 of the bill makes it very clear that there is a requirement for public notice and it provides input for any general permit.

I have been involved in the permitting of many mines in Alaska and the continual appeal process usually results in holding up a project for sometimes years.

The money spent to defend our projects negatively impacts the costs and often times we are forced to stop pursuing development as legal costs have chewed up much of our monies.

Is it not similar to the development of ANWR? Outside interests drive whether or not we can practically produce oil without hurting the environment.

What a boon to our revenue coffers it would be if we could start work there.

My business is no different, our projects spend millions of dollars to develop revenue generation.,

Please don't let the special interests from outside Alaska interfere with what is right for the persons of Alaska.

Kindest Regards.

Jason Morrison
Area Manager
J.S. Redpath Corporation

From: Maynard Tapp

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 1:46 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Please Vote Yes on HB-77 as presented - it does allow for public comment despite testimony to the contrary.

Senator Giessel,

Please Vote Yes on HB-77 as presented - it does allow for public comment despite testimony to the contrary.

Regards,

Maynard

| Maynard V. Tapp | HAWK CONSULTANTS LLC

From: Tabs Unlimited
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:03 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 support

I would like to let you know that, as a life-long Alaskan, I fully support HB77 and believe that this bill ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Best regards,

Scarlett Adam
3220 Nowell Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801

From: cory bodyfelt
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 11:56 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of HB77

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the senate resources committee,

I am a commercial fisherman and I am writing to express support of HB 77 as it is heard in committee this week.

Alaska has a solid permitting process that protects the environment while being efficient and manageable. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by the appropriate people, experts in their field and results in cost savings to the state while protecting the environment. HB77 allows issuance of general permits so that minor projects can be permitted, established and completed without breaking the bank of a small business or the state. HB77 brings accountability to the appeals process, only allowing those directly impacted by the decision.

HB77 ensures that the science based expertise of our wonderful state are managing Alaska's water resources.

Thanks for your consideration,

Cory Bodyfelt- Commercial fisherman and supporter of HB77



ANCHORAGE SAND and GRAVEL CO., INC.

1040 O'Malley Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99515 • (907) 349-3333 • FAX (907) 344-2844 • www.anchsand.com

04/13/2014

Dear Senator Giessel,

Anchorage Sand and Gravel, an Anchorage based building materials supply company, would like to voice our support for HB 77. AS&G has been doing business in Alaska since 1938 and has been providing many good paying jobs over all those years. AS&G relies heavily on natural resources, to make the basic building materials needed to construct all of the things that we all take for granted every day, like roads, schools, housing, airports and hospitals. Without these natural resources none of these things mentioned could be built.

Companies like AS&G, need a fair and balanced approach when it comes to the permitting process. When permitting a natural resource site, millions of dollars and resources are committed to a project, and the company doing the work, need to have a predictable and reliable process. Companies need to be held accountable to make sure they operate in a responsible manner, to protect the environment, the health of their employees, and the safety of the public. They also need a permitting process that is fair and reasonable, and this is why AS&G is in support of HB77.

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.





ANCHORAGE SAND and GRAVEL CO., INC.

1040 O'Malley Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99515 • (907) 349-3333 • FAX (907) 344-2844 • www.anchsand.com

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HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Please yes vote on HB77.

Sincerely,

Wes VanderMartin
Vice President/General Manager
Anchorage Sand & Gravel, Inc.



-----Original Message-----

From: Rene Azzara

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:21 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: HB77

Please SUPPORT and vote YES on HB77.

Thank you,

René Edelman Azzara

Box 3112

Soldotna, Alaska

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen Hippler

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:20 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: hb 77

Dear Senator,

Thank you for considering HB 77. It is important to pass this, to improve our regulatory process.

I ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Allen Hippler

CFO

Faulkner Walsh Constructors

Rivercity Development, LLC

Top Fuel Co, LLC

Suite 881, LLC

From: Peter Macksey

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:13 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB 77

Hi folks.

As you ponder the bill in front of you, listening to testimony, do you pause and think of the reasons that make you address this and any of the problems that come before you. Alaska was given state hood as a resource development state to be able to support and provide a livelihood for its citizens. Any and all development is being opposed in this state, yet somehow people need everything, schools, heat, water and sewer, grocery's and money in their pocket.

I am pro-development, pro-job and proud to be part of the people that have tamed the last frontier. We have not done this by destroying the neighborhood as you would be led to believe. We continue to be good stewards.

All this leads up to that I support HB-77. Ask during testimony, what is the background of person testifying, ask if they live in the area, ask if they are a productive Alaskan citizen. Ask if they are hobbling development here or in general are against all development.

I support HB-77

I thank you for your time, I hope you are not swayed either way but look at the realities facing this state and make decisions based on that.

Ps, I want a road to NOME as well.

Peter Macksey
Estimator/Sales
STEELFAB
2132 Railroad ave.
Anchorage 99501

From: Bernie Hart
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SUPPORT

YES VOTE ON HB77

Thank You,

Bernie
Stores Assistant/Travel Coordinator
Soloy Helicopters, LLC

From: Larry Cooper
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:41 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I personally stand strongly in favor of the passage of HB 77. The public holds the rights to public resources. Alaska government agencies represent all the people, not just one sector. They should hold private rights used by all of us (i.e., rights to fish habitat). The amended HB 77 allows members of the public to apply for in stream flow reservations, but if granted the reservation is held publicly. This eliminates the problem of having to ask a well- funded anti-development group whether Alaska can develop our resources, or whether Alaska can change the methods to protect fish we all value.

Please do not bow to pressure from those groups or individuals who either do not truly understand the law or are simply blindly against responsible development of any kind.

Sincerely,
Larry

Larry J. Cooper
Vice President
Commercial Loan Unit Manager
Northrim Bank
3111 C Street, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99524
Direct 907-261-8771
Cell 907-250-7530

www.northrim.com
www.alaskanomics.com

From:

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:39 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: RE: Education Series Part 2 Investment - Senator Cathy Giessel's Newsletter

Senator Giessel,

Thanks for your great work, including your outstanding newsletter.

I fully support HB 77 and the work that went into improving the language from last year to mitigate various concerns . I did call your office and spoke to staff on this subject.

The reduction in permits will continue to help the State in driving down unemployment rates and providing opportunities for meaningful careers for Alaskans.

Thank you. TOM, SUSAN and SAM MALONEY 3215 Legacy Drive Anchorage Alaska 99516

From: C.R.Dick Hammond

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 9:31 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche

Subject: HB-77

Dear Senators,

I am writing to give my support for the passage of HB-77.

As a small family placer miner we have seen the permitting process become increasing cumbersome, to the point of absurdity.

HB-77 will help to alleviate some of the redundancy.

Please support this Bill.

Sincerely,

Charles Hammond

Chicken, AK

From: Wally McGregor

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:02 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

To Members of the Alaska state legislature:

I am a long term property owner in Alaska. Had it not been for the passage of ANILA in 1980 that enclosed my properties in the WRST National Park denying me the right to mine the deposits, I would be a long term Alaskan resident making a major contribution to the State's economy.

Regarding HB77, I view the bill as one that will implement changes providing greater certainty and timely response to Alaskans seeking to obtain permits, crucial to the future of Alaska.

I understand that DNR is making positive progress on reducing the backlog of permit applications due to special appropriations by the Legislature. All well and good, however, HB77 will help to address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

Wallace McGregor

Northwest Explorations Joint Venture
1212 N. Washington St. Ste 132
Spokane, WA 99201

Senate Resources Committee on CSHB 77
March 12, 2014
Testimony of Rick Rogers, Executive Director,
Resource Development Council

Good afternoon. My name is Rick Rogers, Executive Director of the Resource Development Council. RDC is a statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

Responsible resource development includes protecting fish habitat, and the revisions to the water reservation section of this bill do that, while also addressing recent practice of eNGOs to game the system to block responsible resource development.

The status quo on water reservations is bad public policy. In the 1990s, Greenpeace attempted to frustrate oil development near the Kaparuk River by seeking a water reservation. Fortunately in that case the facts did not support their claim as the waters used in development were not connected to the Kaparuk River. However the flawed law that allowed that attempt to cut off Alaska's life blood is still on the books.

We believe the CSHB77 adequately addresses this issue by allowing persons to apply for water reservations and vesting a certification with a State agency. If the concern is really about protecting resources, formerly opposed parties to this bill should now be satisfied. If, however, the desire for some is about keeping the status quo as another blunt legal instrument to shut down resource development, then they will likely remain dissatisfied with the amendments.

Much in this bill is about helping smaller businesses and Alaskans, and making DNR more efficient. With budget deficits, can we really afford having DNR adjudicate every individual mooring buoy when a General Permit can serve the public interest? The amendments to the General Permit language are appropriate to limit their scope.

Systemic improvements to what has become a very complex set of statutes authorizing DNR's work are needed to help prevent future backlog and delays, and CSHB77 is a significant step in that direction.

We encourage this committee to pass this new CSHB77.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: Jim Halloran

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:38 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: HB 77

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you, I am

Jim Halloran

From: Amanda Shaw

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:54 PM

Subject: Vote YES on HB77

I support and ask for a YES vote on HB77.

Respectfully,

Amanda Shaw

From: Carl Portman

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:59 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Support HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to urge your support of CSHB 77 and encourage the committee to pass the bill. HB 77 improves the process of issuing General Permits and efficiently addresses the severe backlog in permitting.

Under the committee substitute, individuals, tribes, and others will continue to be able to apply for water reservations, but the certificate will be issued to an appropriate state agency, ensuring public resources are managed by public agencies with scientific expertise. This is important because for large projects that are multiple years in the planning, the decision on how to withdraw water, protect the fish, and promote economic development should be made with all the data, and with an understanding of all the environmental and social effects.

Passage of HB 77 will increase the efficiency of our land and water use authorizations, while maintaining Alaska's high environmental standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I appreciate your public service.

Carl Portman

Anchorage Alaska

Testimony of Carl Portman
On CS HB 77
Senate Resources Committee
March 12, 2014

Good afternoon. My name is Carl Portman and I am speaking on my own behalf. I support the committee substitute for HB 77 and encourage the committee to pass the bill.

HB 77 improves the process of issuing General Permits and efficiently addresses the severe backlog in permitting.

Under the committee substitute, individuals, tribes, and others will continue to be able to apply for water reservations, but the certificate will be issued to an appropriate state agency, ensuring public resources are managed by public agencies with scientific expertise.

This is important because for large projects that are multiple years in the planning, the decision on how to withdraw water, protect the fish, and promote economic development should be made with all the data, and with an understanding of all the environmental and social effects.

Passage of HB 77 will increase the efficiency of our land and water use authorizations, while maintaining Alaska's high environmental standards.

Thank you.

From: Michael Ferris

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 4:09 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Subject: Support of HB 77

I wanted to make sure my support of HB 77 was on the record. So much of the state is Federally or State owned and anytime someone wants to start a project in Alaska, outside eNGOs can step in and abuse the system and stop projects. I would like to see more projects moving forward in Alaska and seeing more Alaskan be able to work on developing Alaskan Resources.

Please help move HB 77 forward and VOTE YES.

Sincerely

Michael Ferris

Michael S. Ferris

Xerox Sales Agent

Alaska Enterprise Solutions, Inc.

Xerox Authorized Sales Agent

557 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite A

Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Lorali Simon
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:54 PM
Subject: Support for 2nd S CS CS HB77(RES)

Dear Senator,

Yesterday I went to the LIO to testify in support of HB77, however, time ran out before it was my turn.

I must say, most of the testimony yesterday was not based on fact, but rather on irrational misrepresentations of what is, or is not, in the bill. It was clear that nearly every person who testified yesterday had not read the bill; did not understand the current Alaska Water Use Act, nor changes proposed in the CS. This version of HB77 does not take away the public's right to participate; it does not infringe upon subsistence activity or human rights; it will not cause cancer; nor does it create an avenue to destroy fish habitat.

All development projects in the state of Alaska have to go through a rigorous permitting process – which is a public process that incorporates public input throughout the process. There are opportunities throughout the permitting stage for groups, individuals, tribes, and other organizations to engage in public comment periods. HB77 does not change that. The reason HB77 has become so popular with anti-development activists is because they have found a way to use the current water use system to impede development projects.

HB 77 encourages responsible development of State land and water resources and it's passage is necessary to stop abuse of the permitting process.

Thank you for taking the time over the past year to improve HB77.

Sincerely,
Lorali Simon

Lorali M. Simon
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Vice President, External Affairs
(907) 745-6028 office
(907) 745-6083 fax
634 S. Bailey St. #204, Palmer, AK 99645

From: Benson, Brian

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:05 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Fred Dyson

Subject: HB77

Honorable Senators on Alaska's Senate Resources Committee:

I wanted to write and let you know that I support and believe that the passage of this bill is critical to Alaska's future. Permitting of resource development projects must be expedited without putting Alaskans public involvement at risk-I believe this bill will do that. To put the interests of any "special interest" groups above those of Alaskan's directly affected is unconscionable; especially since one way or another, only Alaskans will be directly affected. And although I certainly can't agree that all federal permitting rules apply all of the time, allowing general permits for smaller projects seems to work and still protect the rights of all interested parties under the law as it stands at that time.

I can't be convinced that further obfuscation of the issues and delays of Alaskan development will have any benefit to anyone outside of the lawyers that build the suits to tie up projects in our courts for years and the leadership of the special interests that (I feel) have lost their path to save the environment in favor of making money and prestige among their followers.

I have been in the state since 1955, and am very opposed to wholesale, unregulated development, and wanton destruction of this beautiful state; but to tie up and deny growth and jobs to our children on half-truths and speculation is very close to sinful. The state of the art in science and advancements in engineering give me confidence that we can go ahead with development if projects get to a point where they present a plan and pass both reasonable public scrutiny and a practical permitting process.

Please vote YES on HB77.

Best Regards,

Brian Benson

Alaska Sales Manager, Air Liquide America L. P.
6510 Arctic Spur Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518 U.S.A.

Thursday, March 13, 2014

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Francy Bennett
3619 Aldren Circle
Anchorage AK 99517

From: Steve Denton

Date: March 13, 2014 at 5:51:31 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77 Permitting Reform Bill

Dear Senator,

This message is sent to urge you to support and pass the Permitting Reform Bill, HB77 out of the Senate Resources Committee and support full passage by the Alaska Legislature as soon as possible.

During my nearly 40 year career in Alaska's resource industries, including mining, fishing, logging and petroleum, I have lead or had significant participation in a broad range of permitting actions ranging from relatively simple permits for individuals to fill tidelands for a boat dock to the very complex permitting process for a new coal mine. I have participated as an industry representative on a task force charged with assisting in development of the comprehensive coal mining regulatory program. I believe I am well qualified to comment on the function or dysfunction of Alaska's permitting programs.

The 2013 Fraser Institute "Survey of Mining Companies" ranks Alaska as 87th out of 112 jurisdictions in the category of "uncertainty concerning environmental regulations". This means that only 22% of the jurisdictions have worse records for environmental permitting. In my career, i have seen Alaska evolve from environmental and reclamation standards for a coal mine that were contained in 2 paragraphs in a coal lease to the comprehensive program we have today that leaves no significant question regarding environmental protection unanswered before a permit is issued. This transformation has been difficult for sure and at times expensive, but for the most part has yielded positive results for the environment and a system within which a vibrant coal industry could develop.

However, the rise of environmental activists into a well-funded and organized industry has taken environmental protection down a dark path that does little to protect the environment. Our comprehensive environmental regulatory programs have done an excellent job of protecting Alaska's environment for several decades. The primary effect of the environmental activists efforts has been to progressively and effectively frustrate the efforts of our regulatory agencies to rationally manage Alaska's resources. Permits that should be a simple matter and take a few days or weeks in most jurisdictions are being drug into weeks, months or years long ordeals. My observation, at least partially confirmed by the Fraser survey, is that Alaska is on a trajectory to becoming the worst jurisdiction on the planet for permitting a resource development project, which trumps all of our other positive aspects like great resource potential. I do not believe that is a future any real Alaskan can support.

HB77 is a good first step to taking back control of Alaska's management of its natural resources, which is currently largely in the hands of committed outside influences that care little about the welfare of Alaska's citizens. HB77 will do nothing to lessen the opportunities of citizens to influence the outcome of major permitting and resource disposal actions or degrade the quality of our environmental protection. Providing a streamlined process for permitting routine actions is sorely needed and will send a positive message to those who might be interested in investing in Alaska that we are serious about taking back control of the management of our resources. I urge you to vigorously support Alaska by supporting passage of HB77.

Sincerely Yours,
Steve Denton

PO Box 149
Healy, Alaska 99743

PAUL S. GLAVINOVICH
MINERALS CONSULTANT

P.O. Box 112816
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

Telephone
(907) 345-3646

March 12, 2014

TESTIMONY OF PAUL S. GLAVINOVICH BEFORE ALASKA STATE SENATE RESOURCES
COMMITTEE, SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL, CHAIR

RE: CSHB77H

Senator Giessel, members of the Senate Resources Committee

My name is Paul S. Glavinovich. I am Professional Geologist and have in excess of forty years of experience in the mining industry, the majority of it in Alaska. I have been directly involved in the development, permitting and operating of two of Alaska's major operating mines.

I am here today to express my support for the Committee Substitute for HB 77. The legislation is a direct result of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources effort to improve and modernize Alaska's permitting system and will result in the processing of permit applications and other resource management protocols on a more timely basis with greater efficiency and lower costs to both the state and the permit applicant.

The Fraser Institute, a globally recognized independent research and education organization, recently ranked 112 jurisdictions throughout the world. The individual jurisdictions were ranked into three categories of decreasing importance to resource investment.

Alaska ranked a poor twenty-second under the Policy Perception Index, perhaps the most critical, but ranked first against the Mineral Potential Index for geologic potential and was listed as fifth under the Investment Attractiveness index. Possibly more compelling however, was a question asked for the first time this year about whether public opposition to mining was affecting the permitting and/or approval process for any projects with which their companies were directly involved. Thirty six percent of the 690 respondents confirmed that public opposition was affecting the permitting and/or approval process. The majority of the complaints focused on "environmental or water usage (59.2%)".

The CSHB77/H attempts to resolve many of these same issues by providing a disciplined protocol for both the permit applicant and the public and represents a significant and positive contribution to timely and efficient resource development in Alaska. I strongly recommend that the Senate Resource Committee vote to advance this legislation.

Thank you.



888 700 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V7Y 1G5

Telephone: 604.662.7307
Facsimile: 604.662.3791

March 12th, 2014

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to express our support for the passage of Bill HB77. As an exploration company and one whose exploration properties are all based in Alaska we believe that the streamlining of the permitting process is a necessity in order to ensure the continued exploration and development of Alaska. We over the past several years spent in excess of \$15 million dollars in order to explore our mineral properties. These expenditures are largely in State and result in the employment of Alaskans.

In our ongoing conversations with investors we continue to hear that the greatest challenge to continuing to fund exploration and development companies with projects in Alaska is the permitting risk within the State. We believe that a message from the State indicating the streamlining of the permitting process would be favourably received by investors. A negative decision during this downturned exploration period would have far reaching consequences and one that we believe will lead to the substantial loss of jobs within the exploration and development community.

We strongly support a streamlined permitting process whilst at the same time protecting environmental concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Walcott", written over a horizontal line.

Kristina Walcott
President and CEO
FREEGOLD VENTURES LIMITED

FIRST THINGS FIRST ALASKA FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 240605
Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone
907.463.3433 fax
fffoundation.org

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Cathie Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Building
Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Neil MacKinnon
President

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

Joseph Kahklen
Secretary

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

Directors
Corey Baxter
Richard Burns
Gail Dabaluz
Naomi Hobbs
John Sandor
Ursula Sfraga
Scott Spickler

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

RE: House Bill 77

Dear Senator Giessel:

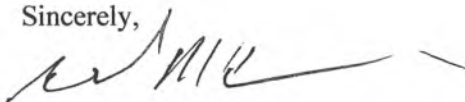
HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure and is good public policy. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently. HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. Its adoption is good public policy.

Sincerely,



Neil MacKinnon
President

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

Kevin Greenfield
3300 North Shore Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

April 5, 2013

Senator
Senator
Senate Finance Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am a Placer miner in the interior of Alaska. Having a stable predictable permitting system is critical to our business.

This bill provides for the use of a General permit process. A process that has been utilized by many federal agencies. I support this process it will improve the efficiency of the State government and not only help the placer mining industry, but many other small business across the state.

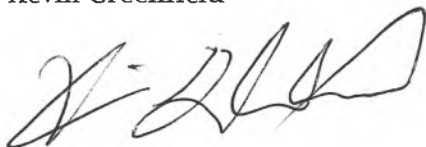
The bill clarifies who can apply and who can hold an in stream water reservation. This section will help prevent special interests from reserving in stream water reservation for the only purpose of obstructing development in the State. This will help our small company by keeping the water reservations managed by State agencies only, not federal agencies or ENGOs. I urge you to support HB77 as written with no amendments to this section.

The requirement in the bill that appeals to State lease and land disposals can only be done by those that are directly and negatively affected help prevent a often outside special interest from blocking permits.

HB77 has many things that are good for our business and other businesses in Alaska. I urge you to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kevin Greenfield

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Greenfield', written over a light blue horizontal line.

From: Russell Lowney
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: BH-77

Cathy,

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My grandmother, father, myself and my son were all born in this great state. I urge you to vote yes on HB-77. This bill is solely about the permitting processes and does not make any changes to environmental standards or the laws governing water rights. Since when is reducing "red tape" a bad thing? With respect to instream flow reservations, the current law rewards whoever can get their paperwork filed first. This is a flawed process. Decisions should be made by reviewing all of the facts and coming to a logical and reasonable decision. Decisions should not be based on who wins a paperwork race. For too long, I have seen outside special interest groups set Alaskan policy by using the appeals process to block permits. Many times these attempts are in direct conflict with the people and groups directly affected by the project or issue. We need an appeals process that serves stakeholders – not outside special interest groups.

Please vote Yes on HB-77.

Russell Lowney | Osborne Construction Company | Project Manager

From: Tony wilson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHB77

Dear MS Giessel,

I am supporting HB77 and urge you to do likewise. I believe the changes are beneficial to the orderly development in the State.

Thank You

Tony Wilson, PLS
Edge Survey and Design
12501 Old Seward Highway, Unit D
Anchorage, AK 99515

From: Peggy Spittler

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:07 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

Importance: High

Please vote YES on HB 77

Peggy Spittler

Director of Marketing | Carlisle Transportation Systems, Inc.

From: John Braham
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Senator,

Please vote yes on HB77

Thank you

--

John Braham

Midstate Equipment Inc.
2120 Badger Road
North Pole, Alaska 99705

From: Ella Ede
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please SUPPORT HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to you in support of HB 77. This bill will allow the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans who obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in HB 77 help address the cause of the backlogs.

This important bill provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. The bill makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Under the current system, individuals and anti-development groups have the ability of eNGOs to abuse the system and stop projects. HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise.

As you are preparing to vote on this bill, please consider the voices of individual life-long Alaskans like myself. It is critical for us to support resource development, which fuels our economy. It is imperative to provide clarity and consistency in the Alaska regulatory process in order for companies to continue to invest in Alaska.

As a life-long Alaskan and supporter of responsible resource development, I urge you to listen to Alaskans and support HB 77.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ella L. Ede
3060 Redwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: Green, Richard
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:37 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject:

Senator Giessel,

I am contacting you in support of HB77. I am on the Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC) and the Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA). Both of these large organizations are in support of HB77. Both of these organizations support environmentally responsible development and have articulated position statements supporting HB77. Please do not be influenced by the boisterous rhetoric displayed by the anti-development forces that are simply the tip of "Outside" arrows shot by outside influences whose goal is to inhibit and limit Alaska's resource development.

Thank you.

Richard Green LEED-AP BD&C
General Manager/Fairbanks
Spenard Builders Supply/ProBuild
2460 Phillips Field Road
Fairbanks Alaska, 99701

From: karen clautice

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:18 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: YES on HB77

I am asking you to please vote YES on HB77.

There has been much organized opposition and misinformation distributed about HB77.

--It does NOT cut Alaskans from the public process, but rather strengthens their ability to participate

--It does NOT give the DNR Commissioner excessive authority

--It does NOT put salmon and the environment at risk

This bill ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies. It implements changes to more efficiently run State agencies and manage permits. It requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Karen H Clautice

P.O. Box 83628

Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Darwin Green
Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:37:00 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote yes on HB77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I urge you to vote yes on HB77. I represent a Canadian based mineral exploration company that invest millions into Alaska every year to discover and develop Alaskan mineral resources. My voice supports our local Alaskan employees and the communities within which we operate and where the potential for meaningful, high-paying jobs will contribute to the long term vitality of these communities (and perhaps remove the plywood from shuttered shop windows). In a world of every increasing delays and obstructionist self-interest activism, the Alaska permitting process and the HB77 provides a refreshing dose of reasonable, well considered updates to enhance efficiency. Efficiency is not to be confused with a reduction in quality, and the high standard of environmental protection that Alaska permitting system maintains – which is in both the Mining Industry and the Alaska governments best interest. An efficient, effective, permitting process is critical to Alaska's economy and ensuring investment dollars flow north. With infrastructure and seasonal climate challenges, and every fluctuating investment climate for exploration dollars, Alaska needs to continue finding ways to enhance and encourage exploration and reduce permitting delay; particularly so for the highest investment risk, small, early stage projects for which general permits simply make sense. With short exploration field season in much of Alaska, a delay in permitting can result in a project missing a year of work, which in turn can result in the project not getting funding, and the dollars never flowing into Alaska. Alaska competes with a global market, and every effort needs to be made to ensure exploration dollars, which are essential to finding the next generation of mines, continue to flow into Alaska.

Other key points include:

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you for considering my comments when you vote on HB77

Darwin Green

Vice President Exploration

Constantine Metal Resources Ltd.

From: Jay Armstrong

Date: March 13, 2014 at 6:44:40 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <sen.fred.dyson@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <sen.peter.micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <sen.click.bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <sen.lesil.mcguire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <sen.anna.fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <sen.hollis.french@akleg.gov>, Ralph Hamm <hamm47@gmail.com>
Subject: I mine and I support HB77, SAY YES

Jay Armstrong here, I'm an Alaskan resident, I live in Wiseman Village and have been mining up here since the 1980's.

What the environmentalists have succeeded on doing at the federal level, they are now trying to start doing on a state level.

Environmentalists with connections on the inside are working together to stop resource development permitting on federal lands-it's now gaining strength on the State level.

This should be no surprise if you are paying attention, last year the feds spent 440 BILION in court fees stopping development of resources right here in the USA! Please do not allow this to start happening here in Alaska.

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Please use your common sense and vote YES on HB77!

Thank you, Sincerely

Jay Armstrong

Wiseman Village Lot 4E

PO Box 9008

Coldfoot Alaska 99709

Mark & Kim Huffington
207 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
907.374.3252

Email Delivery: senator.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov

March 13, 2014

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB77 Land Use/Disp/Exchanges: Water Rights (Permitting Reform Bill)

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am going on three years as a resident of Alaska from Colorado. I am also an environmental professional of 25 years of managing, auditing, and permitting experience under multi-media environmental programs including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Clean Air Act (CAA), Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), and other environmental programs in the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. I have even managed and audited environmental programs in Canada, Greenland, and Mexico.

With this in mind, I would like to provide you my reasons why you should support HB77, Permitting Reform Bill.

- I find it refreshing that Alaska generally has legislation that use common sense as compared to the State of Colorado where it seems like the whims of a small minority gets the most attention and legislative bills are often enacted this way, which I find as detrimental to the welfare of Colorado and its residents. I certainly hope that Alaska does not go down this same path.
- I have noticed that Alaska permitting agencies are under the gun to do more with less, which is understandable in these trying economic times; however, they are not providing efficient permitting processes. Thankfully, these agencies have examined their regulatory processes and have determined that there are ways to increase their efficiencies. These efforts have also included discussions and outreach to Alaska stakeholders, and I have been present during agency presentations. Ultimately, the time and work the agencies put into making efficient changes have resulted in legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient and timely while, at all times, maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

Email: huffingtonmk@aol.com

Mark & Kim Huffington
207 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712
907.374.3252

- HB 77, Permitting Reform Bill implements changes that will provide certainly and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining state agencies that operate efficiently.
- Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is making good progress on its unacceptable application backlog. The funding is helping DNR reduce their backlog. However, more permit process improvements is needed.
- HB77, Permitting Reform Bill provides the issuance of general permits, which is dearly needed for minor projects, and these general permits make the permitting process very practicable and efficient for the permittee and agency. General permitting is a very common sense approach.

Contrary to what the bill's opponents are trying to get the committee to believe that there will be no public involvement in the permitting process. Public/stakeholder input is part of every general permit process. For example, the renewal of Alaska's Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharge, which is currently in the renewal process and involves public/stakeholder input. The US Environmental Protection Agency and states throughout the United States, including Alaska, have general permits that regulate stormwater discharges, air emissions from specific equipment, hazardous waste treatment processes/units, etc. Therefore, there is nothing new to general permitting and public involvement and there is no precedent being set with this included in HB77.

- I whole-heartedly agree that HB77 requires that the appeals process can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. The appeals process then has accountability by ensuring that only those who are directly involved by the stakeholder are involved in the appeals process and not some outside entity or special interest attempting to block a permit. The agencies do have the expertise to permit.
- HB77, Permitting Reform Bill ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so that have science-based expertise; our state resource agencies.

In closing, HB77 should be passed and allow Alaska to manage its resources and not from outside special interest groups or individuals. Please don't allow the loud minority sway your decision from voting in favor of HB77.

Thank You So Very Much for Your Consideration

Mark A Huffington

Mark A. Huffington
Proud Alaska Resident

Email: huffingtonmk@aol.com

From: "Cheryl A. Thyng"

Date: March 13, 2014 at 7:53:03 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov" <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov" <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov" <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov" <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov" <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: HB77: Please send support ASAP!

Please vote Yes on HB77, there are safeguards in place to protect natural resources and still ensure financial stability for the people who live and work here.

Thank you for your time.

Cheryl A Thyng
379 Flower Street
Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Lewis
Date: March 13, 2014 at 8:00:13 PM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote YES: HB77

Vote YES on HB&&. As a small Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Katherine Lewis, Member, FGMGV LLC

From: Mahana Petersen

Date: March 13, 2014 at 7:16:33 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: A YES vote on HB 77

Dear Senate Committee Members,

I'd like to take this time to strongly vocalize my view on HB77 and the upcoming vote. I unfortunately can't be at the public hearing but encourage you to vote YES on HB77 and to use your influence to truly voice the decision of the people.

In my view, HB77 calls for positive mandates within its scope that will help the State agencies under its purview become more effective and efficient. In this time of maximizing state budgets, the need to be more efficient and effective is crucial for staying within budgetary restraints and the overall success of any State agency.

In addition the requirement that sales, land disputes and leases can only be done by those directly involved or impacted by the decision eliminates unnecessary paperwork and wasting of departmental staff time. Again, creating a more streamlined and productive State agency.

The backlog of permit applications, the current lack of science based experts in regards to Alaska's water resources and the amount of red tape that is in the way, is keeping Alaska from reaching its goals in timely manner. HB77 helps resolve those issues. Its extra funding and efficiency measures will address all those problems currently bogging the department's productivity.

I hope you see my point of view and join with the rest of us adamantly asking you to vote YES for HB77.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mahana Petersen
Palmer AK

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #4
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/14/14

1. Scott Stewart –March 14, 2014
2. Brandon Niles –March 14, 2014
3. Richard Lessard –March 14, 2014
4. Brenda Jones –March 14, 2014
5. Robert Dickson –March 14, 2014
6. Sheldon Maier, Fortymile Mining Association –March 14, 2014
7. Ken Weiss –March 14, 2014
8. Dennis Wilfer –March 14, 2014
9. Shane Durand –March 14, 2014
10. Curt Freeman –March 14, 2014
11. Hal Ingalls –March 14, 2014
12. Phil St. George –March 14, 2014
13. Donald Stevens –March 14, 2014
14. Donald Stevens –March 14, 2014
15. Tyson Marino –March 14, 2014
16. John Barry –March 14, 2014
17. Donna Brady Robertson –March 14, 2014
18. Bill Stevens –March 14, 2014
19. Caroline Higgins –March 14, 2014
20. Michael Miller –March 14, 2014
21. Ed Kornack –March 14, 2014
22. Greg McConnell –March 14, 2014
23. Richard Hamm –March 14, 2014
24. Joey Crum –March 14, 2014
25. William Potter –March 14, 2014
26. Kevin Mesceda –March 14, 2014
27. Scott Stewart –March 14, 2014
28. Kyle Brown –March 14, 2014
29. Jan Plaquet –March 14, 2014
30. Rob Bussell –March 14, 2014
31. Joe Lucas –March 14, 2014
32. Ray Kreig –March 14, 2014
33. Caroline Lam Born –March 14, 2014
34. Scott Hawkins –March 14, 2014
35. Brant Fryar –March 14, 2014
36. Karl Gohkle –March 14, 2014
37. Andrew Nevin –March 14, 2014
38. Reed Christensen –March 14, 2014
39. Josie Hickel –March 14, 2014
40. Keith Granberry –March 14, 2014
41. Lon Wilson –March 14, 2014
42. Sarah Lefebvre –March 14, 2014
43. Colonel (Retired) Bill Brophy –March 14, 2014
44. Daniel Grove –March 14, 2014

From: Scott Stewart
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:21 AM
To: Scott Stewart
Subject: HB 77 - The Land Use/Water Rights Bill

I support HB77 and ask that you move the bill out of committee.

Best Regards,

Scott A. Stewart
Scott A. Stewart
President

From: Brandon Niles

Date: March 13, 2014 at 8:59:46 PM AKDT

To: "Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: **Vote yes on HB77**

Environmental interest groups do not put food on my families table. Please support small scale alaska miners like me by voting yes on HB 77.

Brandon Niles

Sent from my iPad

From: "Richard R. Lessard"

Date: March 14, 2014 at 6:15:04 AM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 77

Senator Giessel;

HB77 is a bill that is much needed for Alaska. At a time when the federal government is overreaching and overbearing on all aspects of development, a bill that reduces the state's administrative burden is needed and that is what HB77 does. By reducing the administrative requirements developments in Alaska will increase which means more money and jobs for Alaskan, and more revenue for the State, in a time when we are reaching a budget crisis and attempting to reduce government spending. Please vote yes on HB-77.

I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication to making Alaska a great place to live and work.

Thank you

Richard R. Lessard

From: Brenda Jones

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:25 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please Support HB77

March 14, 2014

Dear Alaska Senate Resources Committee,

I am a full-time, year round resident of Southeast Alaska.

I am supportive of HB77, which provides statutory changes that will improve many of the State's permitting processes. Greater use of general permits and less onerous land sales, leasing and exchange procedures will help establish a more business friendly environment. Similarly, the proposed changes to the Water Use Act will give the State more flexibility to issue temporary water use permits, will remove a nuisance provision that currently prohibits people from carrying minor quantities of water from one hydrologic unit to another and will prevent the abuse of water reservations by limiting those reservations to federal or state agencies or political subdivisions of the state.

I believe that common sense legislation like HB 77 with bring regulatory improvements will help to reduce the State's cost of managing our resources and will reduce the cost, time and uncertainty associated with businesses use of those resources.

I ask for your support in this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brenda Josephson

P.O. Box 51

Haines, AK 99827

From: Dickson, Robert J.
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:22 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB-77

Senator Giessel,

I am one of your constituents and live at 18742 Guillemot Circle, 99516.

Please consider this e-mail as a strong urging to pass HB-77 out of committee. It is so important to so many small businesses in Alaska and Anchorage. While it is the larger companies that undertake the work that this bill will facilitate, it is the many, many small businesses that actually perform the work and support for the larger companies.

Please count this as a strong request to pass the bill.

Robert J. Dickson
Attorney
Atkinson, Conway & Gagnon
420 L Street, Suite 500
Anchorage AK 99501-1989

From: sheldon maier

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:23 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB-77

Hi Everyone,

I was not able to attend to testify. But I and the Fortymile mining association support the bill. It needs to go through. this would go along way to giving our industry a little fiscal certainty. Our industry needs this. If we don't get some relief from all this permitting and regulatory night mare, our industry will die. Our states economy should not continue to depend on only oil and gas, tourism and a dying fishing industry. And most of the fishing jobs are based outside the state anyway. A fact that goes largely ignored.

We hope you vote to pass this bill.

Thank you.

Sheldon Maier

President

Fortymile Mining Association.

From: Ken Weiss

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:23 AM

To: Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Lesil McGuire

Subject: Support for HB77

Good Morning Senator French<?xml:namespace prefix = "o" ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

I am in your district, yet have included other Senators since I believe HB77 is an important bill; I have read it and I SUPPORT HB77.

HB77 empowers the state offices (and makes them more accountable) to be timely and responsive to applicants and does not stop public comment or disenfranchise people groups of Alaska.

Further, it brings accountability to those who would stop development within the state. Appeals are still possible, but must demonstrate who and how the permits create an adverse action.

This bill will effect every aspect of development throughout the state; roads, villages, private land development.

Please support HB77.

Respectfully, Ken Weiss

From: Dennis Wilfer
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:20 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Pls support HB 77

I am in favor of HB 77 and ask you to support it please. Without being too long winded I believe we are way overdue for an overhaul and I think this is a well written bill. Some of the scare mongering about ruining lifestyles and harming wildlife is just that scare mongering and hype. Please move the bill forward out of committee. I am sorry I cannot get to the Legislative office and attend the public testimony session.

Regards,

Dennis Wilfer

President

C & R Pipe

From: Shane Durand

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:19 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please support CSHB77

Senators,

I respectfully request you support CSHB77.

Alaska is under siege by special interest groups and environmental concerns that are working to stop the governmental process before it can start.

The current state permitting process is not friendly to any kind of development and federal interference as seen with the recent use of 404C by the EPA, prior to an actual permit submission, only further hinders any kind of development in Alaska. Why would a company even suggest projects in Alaska when they are judged before plans even reach paper.

CSHB77 is not just for large scale development but will even help the small businesses and entities that need to move permits through DNR.

Any steps our elected officials can take to make the state process more reasonable are appreciated and needed. Without this type of action the State will become one giant park for the lower 48.

Please support CSHB77

Sincerely,

Shane Durand
Central Environmental Inc.
311 N. Sitka St.
Anchorage, AK
99501

From: Curt Freeman

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:09 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: I support passage of HB77

Senator Giessel - please note my support for passage of HB77. I was not able to leave my job in the middle of the day to testify so I am sending this email instead. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Curt Freeman

From: Hal Ingalls

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:08 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB 77

Please vote yes on HB 77. I am a member the Mining Asso. RDC and Alaska Water Well Asso. and serve on the boards of the AGC and ASCC.

Hal Ingalls

From: Phil St. George

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:04 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: RE: VOTE YES on HB77

Please support and vote yes on HB77. This is a good bill that does not exclude any public opinion and will help speed development. Alaska is losing investment dollars due to EPA's rhetoric on Pebble and Bristol Bay. Exploration dollars are already drying up and some good news that would make the permitting process speedier would be some good news for companies considering investing in Alaska.

HB77 does NOT cut Alaskans out of public process. In fact, it strengthens the ability for the public to participate

HB77 does not give the DNR Commissioner excessive authority.

HB77 does NOT put salmon or the environment in jeopardy.

HB77 does NOT harm the traditional way of life.

HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently. HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Phil St. George

Eagle River

From: Donald Stevens

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:47 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please vote for HB77

Senator: I am a working consulting economic geologist and if this bill does not pass, it will be very difficult for me to keep my business open. The EPA's stand on the Pebble deposit was very destructive for the future of the mining business, and a failure to pass HB77 will be the final blow.

HB77 opponents are full of misinformation about the bill. The people of Alaska are dependent upon knowledgeable legislators who have actually read the bill to make decisions which are in the best interests of the economic future of Alaska. Do not succumb to mob rule by the misguided.

Please vote for HB77.

Don

Donald L. Stevens Ph. D., CPG

Stevens Exploration Management Corp.

1048 W. Int'l. Airport Road, Suite 103

Anchorage, AK 99518

From: Tyson Marino

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:46 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77

Please vote yes for HB77, this is the smart and responsible way for Permits to be managed in Alaska.

Thank you,

Tyson Marino

M-I SWACO | A Schlumberger Company

Project Manager

From: John Barry
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:37 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77, the Permitting Reform Bill

Dear Sen. Giessel,

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

Claims that this bill eliminates public input, silences Alaskans, and more are nonsense as nothing in this bill changes the laws and regulations in place to protect the environment. The current permitting process for large mines is mired in bureaucracy and is sabotaged by environmentalists. It's time Alaska changes this anti-development process and has a realistic permitting process like that in the Yukon.

Sincerely,

John F. Barry
PO Box 25
Gustavus, AK 99826

From: Donna Brady Robertson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:16 AM
To: 'mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov'
Subject: HB77 Permitting

I am an Alaskan that has been in several different business enterprises in Alaska, for more than 45 years. I know that I rarely can attend LIO sessions, although I have made it to a few, because I spend long hours-usually more than 12 per day-attempting to secure work for my employees to support their families. I have the grandchildren of some of my original employees who are working (or trying to obtain work). We need a reasonable permitting bill and it looks like HB77 is such a bill. We really can't afford to have "squeaky wheels" who want attention and who really don't want any kind of development or job creation potential to occur in our state. Then can sit and play with their I Phones while they show up early and in force to sign up on the testify list. Most of us don't have that kind of leisure time. We are working -or in many cases many of us find it much more difficult to get around now that we are older.

We need a more efficient permitting system.

There is a silent majority in Alaska who are reasonable, and they vote. We expect you to do the right thing I Juneau. Passing HB 77 is the right thing.

Thank You, Donna Brady-Robertson

Sun-Air Sheet Metal, Inc., President

From: Bill Stevens

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:38 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: VOTE YES ON 77

03/14/14

0925

Honorable Senators,

I was unable to offer testimony at the Wednesday hearing. I support HB 77 and ask for a YES vote to pass it. It is essential to lessen the layers of regulatory demands that prohibit development.

Bill Stevens

P. O. Box 8596

Nikiski, Alaska 99635

From: Caroline Higgins
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:02 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Please support HB77

I am writing you today to express my support for HB77.

HB 77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Decisions about these projects should be made by Alaskans through their government – not by environmental groups, nor even by individual Alaskans. *The public holds the rights to public resources.*

Alaska government agencies represent all the people, not just one sector. They should hold private rights used by all of us (i.e., rights to fish habitat).

The amended HB 77 allows members of the public to apply for in stream flow reservations, but if granted the reservation is held publicly. This eliminates the problem of having to ask a well- funded anti-development group whether Alaska can develop our resources, or whether Alaska can change the methods to protect fish we all value.

Caroline Higgins

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Michael Miller
9411 Kylie Circle
Anchorage AK 99502

From: Ed Kornack

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:21 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; "<mailto:Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com;

<mailto:Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com;

<mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com;

<mailto:Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com;

<mailto:Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com;

<mailto:Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>"@atl4mhob01.myregisteredsite.com

Subject: CSHB77

Senators,

As a longtime resident and business person of the State of Alaska I urge you to vote "yes" on HB77 to put the issuance of the related permits back in the hands of the people who are directly affected by the basis of the permits.

Thank you for the consideration of this matter.

Ed Kornack

GBC,Inc Vice President

3133 Davis Road

Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

From:**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2014 10:19 AM**To:**; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French**Subject:** cc: I Support HB77

Sent via email to: Senator Dyson

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Greg McConnell
34683 Eklutna Lake Rd
Chugiak AK 99567

From:

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:07 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: voting

please vote for hb77

thanks

richard hamm

From: Joey Crum
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:14 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77 Support

I am writing to express my support for HB 77. Unfortunately the majority of people that are gainfully employed find it difficult to leave their jobs in order to participate in public testimony, which is why I am writing you directly.

I believe that HB 77 is a good bill because it allows for a streamlined process for Alaskans to obtain or be denied their permits. It preserves Alaskans rights for public comment, and enhances the voices of those actually affected by operations under a specific permit. Too many times in our state history, decisions on permits have been delayed because of process alone and we need to fix this. This bill does not remove other agencies such as the ADF&G so our fish and wildlife will still be protected and have a voice. The portion that encourages me the most is the fact that to appeal a decision you have to have standing as a party directly affected. This enhances the voice of the local Alaskans and ensures that their voice is heard over special interests groups who may not even be located in Alaska.

I hope you vote in favor of HB77.

Thank you for your time.

Joey Crum JD, ASP

President/CEO

Northern Industrial Training, LLC

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr William Potter
Inside Sales Mngr.
Inlet Petroleum Company
2111 W 47th Ave
Anchorage AK 99517

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr Kevin Mesceda
Business Development Manager
STEELFAB
4707 Kent Street
Anchorage Ak 99503

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Scott Stewart
President
Arctic Controls, Inc.
3601 Burl Court
Anchorage AK 99504-390

From: Kyle Brown
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:31 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to encourage you to vote in favor of HB77. This state (and country) has been increasingly hogtied by slow and onerous permitting by multiple agencies. The country is now crawling with people that want and use their own homes, vehicles and modern conveniences, all the result of progress, but cry if anything new is proposed. Everything ever proposed is going to have opponents.

No-one wants to destroy our environment or the planet and HB77 will not eliminate responsible scrutiny of projects. We need to be able to identify harmless progress and allow it to pass through the system in a timely manner. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kyle Brown

Anchorage, Ak

From: Jan Plaquet
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: CSHHB77

Senator Giessel,

I support HB 77 that will help cut the red tape and put Alaskans back to work. The bill improves efficiencies in the issuance of General Permits, diminishes the chronic backlog in permitting, results in cost savings to the state, while protecting the environment. CSHHB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thank you for your support on this bill,

Jim Plaquet
1444 2nd Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99701

From:**Sent:** Friday, March 14, 2014 10:53 AM**To:** prosperity@prosperityalaska.org; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French**Subject:** cc: I Support HB77

Sent via email to: Senator McGuire

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Rob Bussell
7604 Highlander Dr
Anchorage AK 99518

From: joe lucas

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:53 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Support for HB77, as amended

Senator Giessel (Chair), Senator Dyson, Senator Micciche, Senator Bishop, Senator McGuire, Senator Fairclough and Senator French:

As a resident of Anchorage, Alaska interested in responsible, accountable and efficient regulatory processes. I am writing in support of HB77 as amended. I urge you to pass the bill as amended.

HB 77 was introduced in the last legislative session as a measure to improve administrative efficiency in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulatory processes. HB77 has been the subject of significant comment and misinformation. To both understand and inform public comment, HB 77 has been the topic of separate public outreach efforts; one led by Ed Fogels from DNR, and the other led by Senator Micciche with the participation of various representatives of DNR and Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Both efforts are to be commended. Significant effort has been made by DNR and the Senate Resources Committee to develop amendments and revised language to address concerns raised over the language in the bill.

The bill, as amended, provides administrative efficiency sought by DNR to improve their ability to process permit applications while maintaining a responsible and accountable regulatory process.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this important legislation.

Joe Lucas

#6 115 E. Potter Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Anchorage, Alaska

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Bottom line: We need to end the war on working people in this state. This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr Ray Kreig
President
RA Kreig & Associates
3818 Clay Products Road
Anchorage AK 99517

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska`s water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska`s economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mrs Caroline Lam born
Housewife
29945 aspen ln
Sterling Ak 99672

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

scott hawkins
130 shelly marie cir
anchorage ak 99515

From:

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:48 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Vote yes on HB77

Vote yes on HB77. As a small
Placer Mining company in the Fairbanks region, we need your support for this legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brant Fryar, Member,

FGMGV LLC

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Karl Gohlke
Sales
Frontier Supply Company
PO Box 83129
Fairbanks AK 99708

From: Andrew Nevin
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:49 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: In favor of HB77

Dear Sen. Giessel,

I have been asked by Alaska Miners Association, on very short notice, to comment on HB77. As I understand it, the Bill is a housekeeping measure that will rationalize current procedures and cause no damage to the interests of fish, wildlife, habitat, environment, native peoples' or lay peoples' interests. I am in favor of HB77.

I am an exploration geologist and mine developer with 49 years' experience in many western states, British Columbia and the Canadian Territories and about 15 other countries. I have grown tired of third-world countries and a year ago I chose the stable and reasonably mining-friendly jurisdictions Alaska, BC and the Yukon for my future endeavors. I am a US citizen and I have been based in Vancouver, BC, since 1969, because it is the center of exploration and mine financing as you know.

I have initiated the formation of many exploration companies over the years. We generally engage exploration crews of 10 to 100 local people, including aircraft and drilling contractors' people, geologists, geophysicists, bookkeepers, caterers, cooks, students, etc. These are well-paying jobs in the bush – and that's just for exploration. Mine development and operations requires many more.

We are proud of our industry and its contributions to society's wellbeing. We are also proud of our environmental record and North America sets the standard for the entire world.

Please support HB77. Thank you,

Andy Nevin

From: Christensen, Reed [<mailto:reed@dowlandbach.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:49 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Stream Line the Process - Don't Cater to Obstructionists

Recent events surrounding the proposed Pebble mine have brought to light some flaws in our system, like how hard it is for companies to comply with the process and how easy it is for opponents to throw up road blocks at every turn.

Alaska has some of the most stringent environmental laws in the country. This is a good thing as we have some of the most beautiful lands in the country. The ability to comply with these laws via these permitting processes should be simple, transparent, and understandable. HB77 does not change these very high standards, it is meant to help streamline the process.

We need a voice in Juneau that is willing to stand up to the disingenuous, anti-development crowd that will use any means necessary to stop the legitimate legal process. Hence the need for these changes. Unwarranted delays in responsible resource development need to be reigned in. They are out of control and they end up costing our state and our citizens lost jobs, lost revenue, and lost opportunity for our economy and our children.

Please pass HB77 out of committee and continue to look at this important issue to put an end to illegitimate road blocks to responsible resource development while simultaneously maintaining our high environmental standards.

Reed Christensen



President, General Manager

6130 Tuttle Place
Anchorage, AK 99507
☎ (907) 562-5818

PART OF THE KONIAG FAMILY OF COMPANIES 

From: Josie Hickel
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:50 AM
To: Josie Hickel
Subject: HB77
Importance: High

Dear Senator,

I am writing in support of HB77, a bill that reflects needed changes in the Alaska permitting process to make the process more efficient, timely and predictable while still maintaining the important mission of

Assuring adequate environmental protection. It is important for the economic stability and development of our state resources, to allow a process that provides stability in a timely manner with respect to permitting. Efficiency measures built into HB77 will help address backlogs in the process, and keep it moving in a more efficient manner in the future. We do need to assure that our resources are properly managed by those who are most knowledgeable and best equipped to do this – the science based expertise of our state resource agencies, and not by non-development groups with an agenda to stop any and all projects which will only lead to a loss of the economic drivers our state needs to function and prosper.

Sincerely,

Josie Hickel

VP HR & Administration

The Pebble Partnership



3201 C Street, Ste. 604

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

From: Keith Granberry

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:00 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: In support of HB 77

Dear Senators,

I grew up in Fairbanks and now reside and work in Anchorage. I am writing to encourage your support of HB77.

I believe streamlining the permitting process is a way to improve the efficiency without overriding the intention of safety and protection for which the permits are issued and it is certainly not going to lead to permits being issued that would not have passed previously

A lot of misinformed people jumped to conclusions that this is essentially a rubber stamp to granting permits that have no merit, but this is simply untrue.

Please help HB77 move forward.

Thank you,

Keith

Keith Granberry, CPA, CFE

Chief Financial Officer

Millrock Resources || 719 E. 11th Ave, Suite C, Anchorage, AK 99501

Friday, March 14, 2014
Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Lon Wilson
President & CEO
The Wilson Agency, LLC
4240 Tahoe Dr
Anchorage AK 99502

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Sarah Lefebvre
2009 McCullam Ave
Fairbanks AK 99701

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

Simply stated you must support HB77 and vote yes.

This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

With best regards,

Bill

Colonel (retired) Bill Brophy
301 Snowy Owl Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr Daniel Grove
2910 Pirate Lane
Kenai AK 99611

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #5
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/14/14

1. Robert Hughes – March 14th
2. Trefon Angasan – March 14th
3. Steve Connelly – March 14th
4. David Spokely – March 14th
5. Gregory Beischer – March 14th
6. Sarah Lefebvre – March 14th
7. Daniel Grove – March 14th
8. Jason Cates – March 14th
9. Sam Mazzeo – March 14th
10. Scott Hartman – March 14th
11. Colleen Kilroy – March 14th
12. Keith Silver – March 14th
13. Adam Crum – March 14th
14. Keriann Shine – March 14th
15. Bob Kuhns – March 14th
16. Brain Peeler – March 14th
17. Joseph Nesbit – March 14th
18. Karen Matthias – March 14th
19. Crystal Nygard – March 14th
20. Brad Angasan – March 14th
21. Stephen Grabacki – March 14th
22. Mike Mortensen – March 14th
23. Mike Satre – March 14th

Dear Senator Giessel:

I wish to go on record as supporting HB 77, "An Act relating to the Alaska Land Act, including certain authorizations, contracts, leases, permits, or other disposals of state land," This is a very positive step in improving governmental efficiencies and reducing costs.

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. The review have included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and has resulted this legislation that allows agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB 77 will help reduce the backlog of permit applications in DNR. This is great progress.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are currently used by Federal agencies.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Richard A. Hughes, PE

H2T Mine Engineering Services, LLP

318 Juneau Ave.

Fairbanks, AK 99701-3768

From: TREFON Angasan
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Denatore Bill 77

Please vote yes on SB 77.

Sincerely,

Trefon Angasan

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,
Mr. Steve Connelly
11860 Nebesna Dr.
Anchorage AK 99507

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

mr david spokely
owner
power systems & supplies of alaska
po box 1559
ward cove ak 99928

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

General Permits just make good common sense for most early-stage projects. The environmental risk is low and routine projects should be approved in a streamlined, efficient fashion. Industry is not looking for rubber stamp approvals but we are looking for timely, efficiency permitting. As a state, we need to take away the ability of anti-development groups that oppose all resource projects and use the existing system to cause unnecessary, counter-productive delay and frustration. Permitting delays and uncertainty are one of the biggest deterrents to further resource development in Alaska. Obstructionist organizations know this and abuse the system to their great advantage. I am a concerned Alaskan that wants to see this State flourish economically in a balanced manner that is protective of the environment and all those that use and share the land. CSHB77 is a good step in the right direction. I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Gregory Beischer
President & CEO
Millrock Resources Inc
3720 Gunwale Ct
Anchorage AK 99516

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Sarah Lefebvre
2009 McCullam Ave
Fairbanks AK 99701

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr Daniel Grove
2910 Pirate Lane
Kenai AK 99611

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

mr Jason Cates
19505 ostivia cir
eagle river ak 99577

Folks,

I am personally submitting my support of HB77, and as a member of the Resource Development Council of Alaska's board of directors. In general, I believe that Alaska lawmakers need to pro-actively protect Alaska businesses ability to develop its resources. Our hands are pretty tied at the Federal level, so I suggest doing more at the State level to help ourselves.

Sam Mazzeo
4633 Jumar Ave
Anchorage Alaska 99516

Thank you for considering to vote "yes" on HB77 and protecting Alaska's ability to develop its resources in a reasonable fashion.

Thank you,

Sam.

From: Scott Hartman
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:02 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support for HB77

Honorable Senator,

My name is Scott Hartman and I am a home owner and 6 year resident of Juneau, Alaska. I am also the general manager of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company. I am contacting you to voice my support of HB77 and ask for yours. This bill improves the permitting process by:

- Allowing for general permits to cover low impact activities and allowing agency resources to be used more effectively and efficiently.
- Requiring that those affected, voice their concerns early in the process so that concerns can be addressed, rather than subverting the permitting process as an opportunity for non-affected outside interests to wait till the end in an effort to just delay, add cost, and stop development.
- Providing that water resources are administered by the state for the benefit of all Alaskans and not locked up through "water reservations" subverting the process to prevent development.
- Improving some of the issues with land exchanges.

Please consider the facts and all of the people of Alaska when making your decision rather than rhetoric of anti-development groups. People of good will who are truly affected and have legitimate concerns that need to be addressed in the permitting process are actually better served by these improvements in the permitting process.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully,

Scott N. Hartman

General Manager

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company

13401 Glacier Highway

P.O. Box 32199

Juneau, Alaska 99803

From: Colleen Kilroy

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:40 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Yes on HB77

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you as an Alaskan resident and small business employee in support of HB77. I ask that you please vote Yes on HB77.

HB77 does NOT cut Alaskans out of public process. In fact, it strengthens the ability for the public to participate

HB77 does not give the DNR Commissioner excessive authority.

HB77 does NOT put salmon or the environment in jeopardy.

HB77 does NOT harm the traditional way of life.

HB77 is simply a permitting efficiency measure. The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently. HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Please vote Yes on HB77. Thank you.

Regards,

Colleen

Colleen Kilroy

Program Administrator

Northern Industrial Training

3700 Centerpoint Dr, Suite 102

Anchorage, AK 99503

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Keith Silver
2511 Ridge Pointe Dr
Anchorage AK 99515

From: Adam Crum
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 11:57 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 77 Support

Senator,

I am writing to express my support for HB 77 and my hope that you will vote YES. I apologize for my inability to be part of the public testimony on Wednesday as I work for a living and can find time to step away, so please accept this message as my testimony to you. I assure you that those in opposition to HB 77 do not speak for myself, colleagues or the majority of Alaskans.

HB 77 should be approved as it creates a streamlined permitting process and preserves the Alaskan right for public comment. I particularly appreciate the language that specifies that anyone appealing must have standing a directly affected party – this will deny non-Alaskans and non-stakeholders the opportunity to interfere with our due process.

Please support and vote YES on HB77.

Thank you for your time.

Adam Crum

From: Keriann Shine

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:04 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB 77

Importance: High

I support HB 77. Please vote yes on HB 77.

Keriann Shine

Administrative Coordinator

Northern Industrial Training

3700 Centerpoint Dr. Suite 102

Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Ben Kuhns

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:06 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 Support

Dear Senator,

I was unable to make it to Wednesday's discussion, due to work commitments, but wish to show my support and ask for a YES vote on HB77.

Thanks,

Ben Kuhns

IH Consultant / HSE Instructor

From: Brian Peeler
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:06 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

I support HB77.

Respectfully,

Brian Peeler

Training Coordinator

Northern Industrial Training

3700 Centerpoint Dr. Suite 102

Anchorage, AK 99503

From: Joseph Nesbit
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:11 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: HB77 My view

Senators

First, let me say that I support HB77 and would like you to vote YES on it.

I own property in Alaska and have mined in Alaska since 1982. I also own a home in southwest Washington, which leads to my main point.

The main population centers in Washington and Oregon are King County and Multnomah County respectively. These are very densely occupied areas. Because of the way the laws and statutes are written, these small areas of their respective states have the ability to dictate policy to the remaining, producing (logging, farming, ranching, mining, etc.) 95% of those states. Most folks in the rural areas feel disenfranchised as they don't have the votes to defend their own particular needs.

I see public input as a necessary part of development, but that input should only come from people who would be directly affected by the development, not from those whose only objection is that they disagree.

We should not allow activists whose lives are not directly impacted by a particular development to influence how that development proceeds

Thank you for your time.

Joe Nesbit

From: Karen Matthias

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:22 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please vote yes on HB77

Dear Senate Resource Committee member,

I have already submitted a letter of support for HB77 on behalf of the Council of Alaska Producers, but I wanted to also register my support for the bill as an individual Alaskan. The new CS for HB77 is not perfect, but I believe it effectively addresses the public concerns that were raised last year. The testimony against the bill on Wednesday did not focus on the actual language and made wild accusations about its implications.

I am a mother who wants to see a sustainable Alaska - economically AND environmentally. I know that Alaska's economy depends on responsible resource development. Permitting that is rigorous but efficient is essential to our economic prosperity. HB77 streamlines permitting and makes government more efficient while ensuring strict regulation of development. This makes sense to me and I would like to see HB77 passed in its current form.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your hard work and service to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias

Managing Consultant

Council of Alaska Producers

PO Box 220193

Anchorage, AK 99522-0193

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Crystal Nygard
Co-Founder
Matsu Business Alliance
3161 Palmer Wasilla Highway
Wasilla AK 99687

From: Brad Angasan
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: 3-14-14 HB 77

Sen Giessel- My name is Brad Angasan. I reside in Anchorage. Please consider this message testimony of my support for HB77.

Brad T Angasan
President
Wetaviq LTD/ Wetaviq Universal Services LLC, 8a, ANC

From: Stephen Grabacki
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:34 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Cc:
Subject: HB77 YES

Dear Senator Giessel -- I am a fisheries biologist with decades of experience in helping resource developers (oil&gas, mining, hydropower) pursue their projects while protecting Alaska's fisheries.

Ownership of in-stream water reservations is an "essential government function", similar to law enforcement. HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so:
the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

From first-hand professional experience, I know that Title 16 of Alaska Statutes has protected, and will continue to protect, those renewable resources. HB77 does not diminish those protections.

I urge you and the Senate to vote Yes on HB77. Best regards, -- Steve

PS: Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Stephen T. (Steve) Grabacki, FP-C
President, and Certified Fisheries Professional

GRAYSTAR Pacific Seafood, Ltd.
P.O.Box 100506
Anchorage, Alaska
99510-0506 USA

From: Mike Mortensen

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:55 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: YES on HB77

Senators, I'm writing to request a yes vote on HB77. This bill supports responsible and timely development of projects in Alaska by Alaskans. HB77 will benefit the economic outlook of the state in general while continuing to encourage responsible use of our natural resources. Please vote to support the people of Alaska and not outside special environmental interest groups.

Mike Mortensen

General Mgr./ C.O.O

Alaska Rubber & Rigging Supply

An **ARG** Employee Owned Company

Honorable Senators,

On Wednesday, March 12, I testified in support of HB77 in Senate Resources on behalf of the Council of Alaska Producers. I want to take this chance to raise my voice in support once again, not only on behalf of the Hecla Greens Creek Mine, but on behalf of my family here in Juneau.

I urge you to please look past the noisy rhetoric and the bumper sticker arguments that have been put forth in opposition to this bill. A close and careful reading of the legislation reveals that the current version of HB77 makes very simple and effective changes to our permitting system that will allow it to effectively serve Alaskans while protecting the environment that we all treasure.

The general permitting authority given DNR in Section 1 mimics the authorities used effectively nationwide by the Corps of Engineers, the EPA and many other states. The general permits are subject to public review and comment and in no way give the Commissioner of DNR broad authorities to grant them for anything but small, common projects with de-minimis impact.

The changes to appeal standing in Section 4 rightfully place the onus on stakeholders to meaningfully participate in the early stages of permit review. Early involvement is the best chance for them to work with state agencies, the developer and other stakeholders to adapt project plans to meet their expectations. Waiting until the appeals or litigation stage to indicate that one is "aggrieved" is of no help to anyone and HB77 rightfully raises the bar on appeals in order to encourage public participation .

Finally, it is common sense that the State of Alaska hold all water reservations in order to meet their constitutional duty to manage our resources. Holding these reservations allows the state to properly balance demands for water while ensuring flows remain for the reserved purpose, including fish and wildlife habitat.

Please take the time to carefully consider this bill and I am confident that you will find that it does none of the outlandish things that its detractors say it will do. Please move this out of committee today so it may be passed on the floor of the Senate as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Mike Satre

Manager of Government and Community Relations

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Co.

PO Box 32199 Juneau, AK 99803

T: 907.523.1410

C: 907.957.2149

HB 77 Support Documents Index Group #6
Passed Out to Committee Members on 3/19/14

1. Robert E. Cox – March 14th
2. John V. O'Shea – March 13th
3. Michelle V Jespersen – March 16th
4. Daniel Jespersen – March 16th
5. Kati Capozzi – March 13th
6. Lorna Shaw – March 14th
7. Alba Brice – March 14th
8. Brad Angasan – March 14th
9. Ella L. Ede – March 14th
10. Russel Lowney – March 14th
11. Donna Brady Robertson – March 14th
12. Pete Stokes – March 14th
13. Stacy Oliva – March 14th
14. David Szumigala – March 14th
15. Tom Coursen – March 14th
16. Jeremy Coke – March 14th
17. Fredrick Kenley – March 14th
18. Jim Dodson & Jomo Stewart – March 14th
19. Jim Plaquet – March 14th
20. Rick Solie – March 17th
21. John MacKinnon – March 14th
22. Jomo Stewart – March 14th
23. Jim Robinson – March 14th
24. Patti Wilson – March 14th
25. Nancy Brown – March 14th
26. Kerry Jones – March 14th
27. Mike Heatwole – March 14th
28. David Nees – March 14th
29. Richard & Karen Wilder – March 14th
30. Randy Eledge – March 14th
31. Karen Matteson – March 14th
32. Renee Schofield – March 14th
33. Chris Kennedy – March 14th
34. Jeff Keener – March 14th
35. Belinda Breaux – March 14th
36. Ken Hall – March 14th
37. Patrick Rumley – March 14th
38. Don Morrison – March 14th
39. Michele Hartline – March 14th
40. Rick Solie – March 14th
41. John Lamborn – March 18th
42. Yvette Lancaster – March 17th
43. Dan Graham – March 17th
44. James & Esther Fueg – March 14th

From: Cox, Bob
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 3:37 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support HB 77

Senator Giessel,

I am writing today to commend you for supporting HB 77. Our permitting process is seriously flawed and it's time to cut the red tape and obstructionism that is holding up responsible development.

Bob

Robert E. Cox
Vice President | Crowley



PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

Est. 1914

13 March 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to convey the Pacific Seafood Processors Association's support for CSHB 77. PSPA is a trade association of nine companies that own and operate 22 seafood processing plants in Alaska from Ketchikan to Unalaska to Bristol Bay. Our members collectively participate in nearly all of the fisheries in Alaska, providing markets for thousands of fishermen.

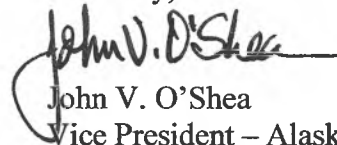
Our industry and the economic viability of the substantial investments our members have made in Alaska depend on healthy sustainable fish stocks and the protection of fish habitat. We believe CSHB 77 provides the tools to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to protect natural resources while allowing for an efficient regulatory process. It provides flexibility to the Commissioner to dispense with low impact activities, freeing up staff and other resources to thoroughly review those projects and activities having a greater potential to impact water use and fish habitat.

CSHB 77 does not diminish the authority or ability or voice of the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game to protect fish habitat. It provides reasonable and adequate opportunities for public comment. It also recognizes water as a public resource, and correctly places the custody of water reservations with public entities.

PSPA supports responsible resource development, both for the protection of natural resources and for the economic activity that comes from development. We recognize the value of a thorough and timely oversight process and acknowledge the reality of the existing budget climate, as well as the need to generate additional revenue within the state.

CSHB 77 strikes a reasonable balance of these concepts. It places confidence in the Governor's and the Commissioners' sworn commitment to protect and properly manage the natural resources of Alaska. For these reasons we recommend you and the Committee move CSHB 77 forward.

Sincerely,



John V. O'Shea
Vice President - Alaska

From: Jespersen

Date: March 16, 2014 at 8:34:31 PM AKDT

Cc: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@ak.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@ak.gov>

Subject: HB77

Senate Resources Committee,

The Alaska State Constitution requires our state government to insure our natural resources are used to the maximum benefit of the people.

Water is the most basic of resources. Why then would you not want to improve the system by which water is protected?

HB77 insures that Water Reservations are held by the State of Alaska and not by any individual or group. HB77 does not restrict the right of Alaskan's to participate in the process. In fact HB 77 requires that public hearings be held and public comments taken prior to any water reservation being granted. Once a reservation or permit has been granted HB77 requires any person or entity challenging the decision to have legal standing to do so.

Passing HB77 will improve economic opportunities in Alaska. We need to improve our economy and encourage companies to do business here so that my children will be able to make a living in our state.

Sincerely,

Michelle V Jespersen

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Daniel Jespersen

Date: March 16, 2014 at 8:30:52 PM AKDT

To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Fred.Dyson@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Anna.Fairclough@akleg.gov>, <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB77

Senate Resources Committee

I am a High School Senior and recently registered to vote. HB77 is important to me, how you vote on this bill will determine if I can support you and or your party in November. The Alaska State Constitution requires our state government to insure our natural resources are used to the maximum benefit of the people.

Water is the most basic of resources. Why then would you not want to improve the system by which water is protected? HB77 insures that Water Reservations are held by the State of Alaska and not by any individual or group. HB77 does not restrict the right of Alaskan's to participate in the process. In fact HB 77 requires that public hearings be held and public comments taken prior to any water reservation being granted. Once a reservation or permit has been granted HB77 requires any person or entity challenging the decision to have legal standing to do so. Passing HB77 will improve economic opportunities in Alaska. I need a growing economy so I will have a bright future. Please Pass HB77

Respectfully,

Daniel Jespersen
Anchorage Alaska

From: Kati
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:40 PM
Subject: Support for HB 77

Dear Senator,

See my prepared written testimony I was hoping to have a chance to give yesterday during the public hearing. I plan to try again tomorrow.

I understand you're busy and may not have the time to read the testimony- the bottom line is that I am in support of HB 77.

Thank you,

Kati Capozzi
Eagle River, Alaska

--

Good afternoon Chairman Giessel, vice-chair Dyson, and members of the Senate Resources Committee, for the record my name is Kati Capozzi and I'm testifying today on behalf of myself.

I am in support of CS HB77. The well thought out changes introduced to HB77 earlier this week sufficiently address the concerns that have been voiced while still achieving the original intent of the bill- to implement a more efficient permitting process.

As an Alaskan who cares about protecting the environment that I call home, and also understanding that I would not live here without natural resource development, I am pleased that this bill has struck a balance that protects Alaskans interests and helps us get to work.

Thank you for your due diligence on this bill and for your service to the state.

From: Lorna Shaw
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:28 PM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Support for HB 77

Senator,

The mining industry has always maintained that permitting in Alaska must be rigorous, science based, transparent and predictable and HB77 fulfills that expectation. Thank you for hearing this bill and I urge you to pass it out of committee in its current form.

Lorna Shaw
External Affairs Manager
Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC

From: Alba Brice
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:10 PM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: CSHB 77

Dear Senator Dyson,

My name is Alba Brice, I was born in Fairbanks and have lived in Alaska my entire life. I have been fortunate to be employed with Brice Companies, a 50 year old Alaska heavy construction, marine, and environmental group for my working career.

I am writing to urge you to consider a yes vote on CSHB 77.

Too often we see projects we feel are critical to Alaska's economy, jobs, and infrastructure negatively impacted, delayed, or even cancelled due to an inefficient and arduous permitting process. We see special interest environmental groups—many of whom are not even Alaska based—constantly putting forth significant resources to block responsible development in our state.

Currently, there is a large permit backlog. Fortunately, the current log jam that has been addressed by special appropriations by the legislature and some relief is occurring. That said, we are pleased to see CSHB 77 be brought for consideration. CSHB 77 is a permit reform bill that targets some of the inefficiencies that are often the cause of these permit backlogs.

The bill provides some certainty and timely response to Alaskans who seek permits, while allowing state agencies to become more efficient during the process. This keeps time expended and costs to a minimum at a time when state budgets are fiscally challenged. General permits would be utilized so that minor projects can be permitted practically and efficiently. General permits would cover those activities already authorized for permit by existing statute and thus have no need for additional expenditure of resources to assign a permit.

The bill brings accountability to those who appeal sales, leases, and land disposal by allowing only those directly and negatively impacted by those actions to appeal, rather than allow appeal by special interest groups who have an agenda to block all permits and development. Further, water resources would be managed by agency staff who have the proper expertise and scientific data to make those determinations.

In short, CSHB 77 provides a more practical and efficient permit process that protects the environment while lessening the ability to "block" by those who abuse the current system and have an agenda to simply deter responsible development of any kind. We believe it is the kind of reform that will help put more Alaskans to work. We feel that a "Yes" vote for CSHB 77 is the right thing for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Alba Brice
V.P. Brice Companies
Anchorage Office
745 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
99501

From: Brad Angasan
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 12:16 PM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: 3-14-14 Support HB77

Sen Dyson. My name is Brad Angasan. I reside in Anchorage. Please consider this message testimony of my support for HB77.

Brad T Angasan
President
Wetaviq LTD/ Wetaviq Universal Services LLC, 8a, ANC

From: Ella Ede
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 8:22 AM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Please SUPPORT HB 77

Dear Senator Dyson,

I am writing to you in support of HB 77. This bill will allow the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans who obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a tremendous permit application backlog. Extra funding helps address the backlog symptom, but efficiency measures in HB 77 help address the cause of the backlogs.

This important bill provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. The bill makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

Under the current system, individuals and anti-development groups have the ability of eNGOs to abuse the system and stop projects. HB 77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise.

As you are preparing to vote on this bill, please consider the voices of individual life-long Alaskans like myself. It is critical for us to support resource development, which fuels our economy. It is imperative to provide clarity and consistency in the Alaska regulatory process in order for companies to continue to invest in Alaska.

As a life-long Alaskan and supporter of responsible resource development, I urge you to listen to Alaskans and support HB 77.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Ella L. Ede
3060 Redwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

From: Russell Lowney
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: HB-77

Fred,

I am a lifelong Alaskan. My grandmother, father, myself and my son were all born in this great state. I urge you to vote yes on HB-77. This bill is solely about the permitting processes and does not make any changes to environmental standards or the laws governing water rights. Since when is reducing "red tape" a bad thing? With respect to instream flow reservations, the current law rewards whoever can get their paperwork filed first. This is a flawed process. Decisions should be made by reviewing all of the facts and coming to a logical and reasonable decision. Decisions should not be based on who wins a paperwork race. For too long, I have seen outside special interest groups set Alaskan policy by using the appeals process to block permits. Many times these attempts are in direct conflict with the people and groups directly affected by the project or issue. We need an appeals process that serves stakeholders – not outside special interest groups.

Please vote Yes on HB-77.

Russell Lowney | Osborne Construction Company | Project Manager

From: Donna Brady Robertson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:39 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: FW: HB77 Permitting

From: Donna Brady Robertson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:16 AM
To: 'mailto:Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov'
Subject: HB77 Permitting

I am an Alaskan that has been in several different business enterprises in Alaska, for more than 45 years. I know that I rarely can attend LJO sessions, although I have made it to a few, because I spend long hours-usually more than 12 per day-attempting to secure work for my employees to support their families. I have the grandchildren of some of my original employees who are working (or trying to obtain work). We need a reasonable permitting bill and it looks like HB77 is such a bill. We really can't afford to have "squeaky wheels" who want attention and who really don't want any kind of development or job creation potential to occur in our state. Then can sit and play with their I Phones while they show up early and in force to sign up on the testify list. Most of us don't have that kind of leisure time. We are working -or in many cases many of us find it much more difficult to get around now that we are older.

We need a more efficient permitting system.

There is a silent majority in Alaska who are reasonable, and they vote. We expect you to do the right thing I Juneau. Passing HB 77 is the right thing.

Thank You, Donna Brady-Robertson

Sun-Air Sheet Metal, Inc., President

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 77

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

~~Dustin R. Shoemaker~~
~~Tony Bagnietzki~~
~~Jonathan Gloria~~
Ronald L. Shoemaker RONALD L. SHOEMAKER
Heather Spomer
Coleen Nilsson

Edith Desmond 2225 VanHorn Rd Fairbanks AK 99701 Edith Desmond
Michael Desmond 2225 VanHorn Rd Fairbanks 99701 Michael Desmond
James Desmond 2225 Van Horn Rd Fairbanks AK 99701 James Desmond
Keri Church 3199 Wyatt Rd NP 99705 Keri Church

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~~David Greenlee~~ David Greenlee 3/14/14 Fairbanks, AK

~~Junia Dietman~~ Jessica Hiltinen 3/14/14 Fairbanks, AK

~~Rose McFadden~~ Rose McFadden 3/14/14 Fairbanks, AK

~~Jeff Newman~~ JEFF NEWMAN 3/14/14 FAIRBANKS, AK

~~John Reed~~ John Reed 3/14/14 Fairbanks, AK

~~Levi Sumpter~~ Levi Sumpter 3-14-14 Fairbanks, AK

~~Gary Swofford~~ GARY SWOFFORD 3/14/14 FAIRBANKS, AK

~~Katherine Daily~~ Katherine Daily 3/14/14 FAIRBANKS, AK

~~Mel Campbell~~ Mel Campbell 3/14/14 Fbks, AK

~~Dubin Malinow~~ Dubin Malinow 3/14/14 Fairbanks AK

~~Rick Austin~~ Rick Austin 3-14-14 Fox, AK

~~Dayson Higgins~~ DAYSON HIGGINS

~~Wilma Littlefield~~ Wilma Littlefield

~~Jeff Dieringer~~ JEFF DIERINGER

~~Josh Hendrickson~~ Josh Hendrickson

~~Scott Randall~~ Scott Randall

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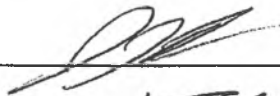
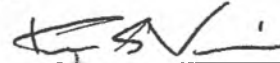
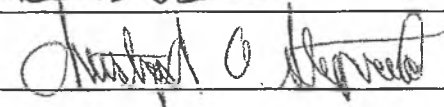
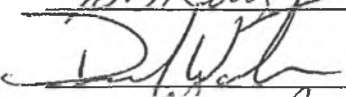
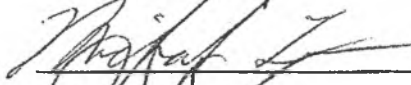
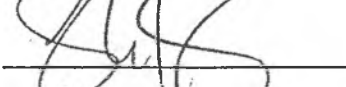
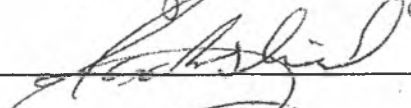

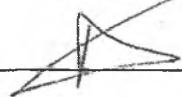
Tyler Mitchell	Tyler Mitchell
Tyler Seay	Tyler Seay
Ryan Hoveskeland	Ryan Hoveskeland
Scott Boyle	SCOTT BOYLE
Cary Toornies	CARY TOORNIES
Ishmael Agate	ISHMAEL AGATE
Robert Wilkins	Robert Wilkins
Justin Machos	Justin Machos
Matthew Z. Long	Matthew Z. Long
Forrest L. Schuster	Forrest L. Schuster
Steve Butcher	STEVE BUTCHER
William Hamilton	William Hamilton
Dave Spurgeon	DAVE SPURGEON
Cam Cackstetter	CAM CACKSTETTER
James L. Miller	James L. Miller
Liz Finley	LIZ FINLEY
Nicholas Bowen	Nicholas Bowen
Alex Provington	Alex Provington

I, Donna Brady-Robertson, will pick this up at 3pm today to scan in and send to the Legislature.

907-388-7822

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 77

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

John Sadler		388-2812
Tommy VINCELETTO		
Christopher A Stepovich		907-760-1711
Bob Kelly	Bob Kelly	978-9181
	DAVID WAREHAM	450-1831
Willow Puz	willard P. Puz	378-5199
Ruth Edman	Dustin Edman	799-6066
Wes Ralph	Wes Ralph	689 9603
	Mike Lam	687-1901
	SHAWN KATZ	760-683-4131
CHARLES BESSE	Charles Benn	907-322-4176
Angela Wridge	Angela Wridge	907-474-8616
JOHN R MICHEL		907-479-2222
Jennifer Grumb		907-378-6268
Chris G Sadler	CHRIS G. Sadler	907-378-3332
Ella Warner	Ella Warner	907-371-9733
Vernal Hansen	Vernal Hansen	907-388-9547
Matt Glaze		907-908-2977

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David W. Hoefel	DAVID W. HOEFEL	3-14-14
Karl I. Gohlke	KARL I. GOHLKE	3-14-14
Chris Fox	Chris FOX	14 Mar 2014
Todd Hume	Todd Hume	3-14-14
Chad Franklin	CHAD FRANKLIN	3/14/2014
Kristina Jackson	Kristina Jackson	3/14/2014
Seth Haines	Seth Haines	3/14/2014
Loni Connor	Loni Connor	3/14/2014
Sheryl A. Burto	Sheryl A. Burto	3/14/14
Robert B. Cummings	Robert B. Cummings	3/14/14

Alaina Kemp	Alaina Kemp	907-799-4025
Raymond Jacobs	Raymond Jacobs	907-347-2532
Logan Lanni	Logan Lanni	907-712-7364
Glois D. Fitzhugh	Glois D. Fitzhugh	907-388-2209
Kennon E. Heard	Kennon E. Heard	907-978-4679
Joe Steporich	Joe Steporich	907-456-4646
Evan Winter	Evan Winter	907-452-2419
Marko Steporich	Marko Steporich	907-687-0331
Christopher Steporich II	Christopher Steporich II	907-687-0330
Lawrence Steporich	Lawrence Steporich	907-378-5208
Michael Steporich	Michael Steporich	750-2345
Peter Steporich	Peter Steporich	
Charles A. Creamer	P.D. Creamer	907-388-2167

From: Pete Stokes

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 4:59 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Cc: Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please Pass the CS for HB77

Senator Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

My name is Pete Stokes and I grew up on the Kenai and now live and work in Anchorage.

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family, including my two grandsons.

I urge you to pass the Committee Substitute for HB 77 to allow for the permitted development of resources on State lands.

The permitting process under this bill allows for the certainty and timely processing of permits to develop the State's resources, thus providing additional jobs for Alaskans.

This bill will ensure that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so – agency staff with science-based expertise - while reducing the likelihood that environmental NGO's can abuse our current permitting system stopping resource development projects.

Many of the areas that resources can be developed on state land are rural areas with few jobs. If projects are shown to be compatible with other land and water uses and permitted, this will improve job opportunities.

I would like to thank you for the efforts of this Committee to improve this bill, taking in public comment from multiply forums after the last session.

Please pass this bill to help cut the red tape for resource development projects and allow for increases in rural job opportunities.

Thank you,

Pete Stokes
3521 Andree Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Stacy Oliva

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 5:04 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77-Vote Yes!

I was unable to attend today's Public Meeting at the LIO due to work schedule. However, I encourage you to vote yes on the current proposed HB77. It is my observation that the majority of people in opposition to HB 77 have not read the bill and are acting as special interest groups or are associated with activist groups that are promoting emotional hype publicity to claims that the passage of this bill will cause harm to the environment, salmon, or traditional way of life. In reality, the passage of HB77 will allow the State of Alaska to follow a legal, proper process of law, while allowing the state water resources to be managed by the science based expertise of our state resource agencies who represent ALL Alaskans.

Please Vote Yes on HB 77!

Stacy A. Oliva

P.O. Box 8567

Nikiski, AK 99635

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 6:18 PM

To: prosperity@prosperityalaska.org; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: cc: I Support HB77

Friday, March 14, 2014

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Tom Coursen
38650 Robinson Lp Rd
Sterling Ak 99672

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 6:28 PM

To: prosperity@prosperityalaska.org; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: cc: I Support HB77

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I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Jeremy Coke
UOSS
4821 E Alder Dr
Wasilla Ak 99654

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 6:46 PM

To: prosperity@prosperityalaska.org; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: cc: I Support HB77

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I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Fredrick Kenley
PND Engineers
5200 N Palmer-Fishhook
Palmer AK 99645

March 14, 2014

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau AK 99801

Dear Legislators,

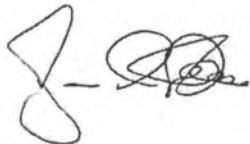
The Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) writes in support of House Bill 77 and to urge you to support it also.

Alaska, as you are aware, is a resource state. It was founded as a resource state and has ever existed as a sovereign State within the Union under the presumption and understanding that the key to its economic development would come through the timely, judicious and balanced development of its resources. Though prudence in Alaska development has generally been assured by application of its fair, open and rigorous regulatory regime, inefficiencies in its permitting system have, in the past, hampered or even stymied otherwise productive and beneficial projects - harming the Alaskan individuals and businesses who sought to access state land and resources, and slowing or even arresting Alaska's local, regional and statewide economic growth.

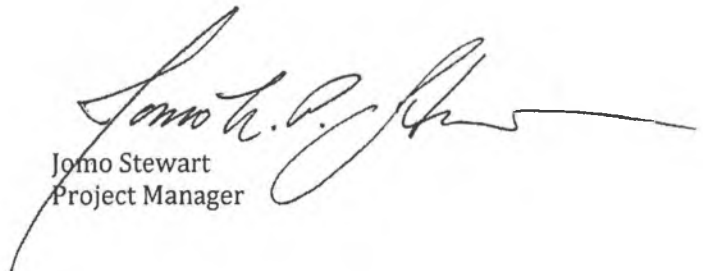
FEDC supports HB 77 because, though it is primarily designed as a means to address the timeliness issue (a chronic problem which, by 2010, had resulted in a backlog of more than 2,600 pending applications for DNR permits and authorizations), it achieves its goal a) without appreciably diminishing or damaging other facets of our otherwise demonstrably praiseworthy regulatory regime and b) with a streamlining of process which will lead to cost savings for both project sponsors and the State.

As a resource state, Alaska must develop its resources - must responsibly and expeditiously move its physical resources into socially mindful, environmentally sound and financially beneficial development - if it is to prosper. HB 77 acknowledges this fundamental necessity and provides a sound, but more efficient, cost-effective and timely, framework to advance it. For these reasons, the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation supports HB 77 and encourages its passage into law.

Respectfully,



Jim Dodson
President & CEO



Jomo Stewart
Project Manager

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:48 PM

To: prosperity@prosperityalaska.org; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French
Subject: cc: I Support HB77

Governor Sean R. Parnell
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau AK 998110001
Fax: (907) 465-3532

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Jim Plaquet
1444 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks AK 99701

Support: 2d SCS CSHB 77(Res)
Via Email



LIVENGOOD GOLD PROJECT

March 17, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Sen Cathy Giessel <Senator_Cathy_Giessel@legis.state.ak.us>
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

Tower Hill Mines – Livengood Gold Project appreciates the opportunity to express our continued support for House Bill 77: Land Use; Disposal & Exchanges and Water Rights.

Tower Hill Mines (THM: NYSE MKT) is advancing a large gold project in Livengood, approximately 70 miles north of Fairbanks on the Elliot Highway. In September of 2013, we completed a Feasibility Study and are currently reviewing the opportunities to improve the economics of the Project. We have also indicated our desire to gain a joint venture partner prior to project configuration and commencing the permitting process.

An essential aspect of raising the needed capital to construct the Livengood Gold Project is demonstrating that the jurisdiction has a predictable and durable regulatory process. The modified House Bill 77 before you is a solid effort to improve the management of Alaska's lands, waters, fish and game for all of Alaska, so that our State may be responsibly developed.

This bill does not diminish the public process or remove Alaskans' ability to meaningfully comment in any way. By requiring participation at the initial stages of the process, when input is needed and can be practicably addressed, it ultimately strengthens Alaskans' ability to be heard. The general permitting provisions in this bill will primarily benefit individual Alaskans who seek to do business on state land or water. This will also free up state resources to focus on larger development activities.

We believe that in-stream water flow reservations should only be held by state agencies, which allows them to properly balance needs for water while ensuring that sufficient flows remain for protecting other uses as required by statute.

We thank you for your continued efforts on this legislation and urge you to move HB 77 out of the Resources Committee in its current form.

Sincerely,



Rick Solie, Manager
Investor & Community Relations



ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS of ALASKA

8005 SCHOON STREET, SUITE 100 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518
TELEPHONE (907) 561-5354 • FAX (907) 562-6118

March 14, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: SCS CSHB 77

Dear Senator Giessel

The Associated General Contractors of Alaska (AGC) is a trade association representing over 650 Alaskan businesses in the construction industry. As a representative of business and thousands of employees, a big part of our effort is to support issues that can move our economy ahead so that everyone in Alaska has an opportunity to prosper. The committee substitute for HB77 will help with that, and on behalf of AGC I want to express our strong support for the bill.

We supported the original version that came to you last spring, and I believe the committee substitute before you is improved in that it has addressed most of the concerns that have been aired. It neither compromises the public process and rights nor enables roadblocks to legitimate development rights.

Over the years in working to keep Alaska moving I've often said that it used to be the that biggest obstacle we had to doing something was getting the money. Today the biggest obstacle is getting permission. This bill will help alleviate some of the lack of consistency and predictability in the permitting process.

Again, thank you for your efforts and the time working on this important bill. I encourage you and all your colleagues support the compromise language in the committee substitute and enact this legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

John MacKinnon, Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska

From: Jomo Stewart
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:27 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Peter Fellman; Lindsay Williams
Subject: HB 77 - Letter of Support - FEDC.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Standard

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please find attached a Letter of Support for HB 77 from the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation, signatories CEO Dodson and myself, for your records. If you would please include it in the Record, it would be greatly appreciated.

With my Compliments,

Jomo Stewart,

Energy & Mining Project Manager

Fairbanks Economic Development

From: On Behalf Of Jim Robinson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Sen. Fred Dyson
Subject: Letter of support for HB77

Dear Senator Dyson,

I writing to let you know how disappointed I am hearing all the inflammatory rhetoric and baseless untruths being spread about HB77. I own and run a small consulting company in Juneau, providing geological and geophysical consulting services to the mining and mineral exploration industries in the Southeast and across Alaska. I fear that the voices of those of us who support this bill are not being heard. Unfortunately I am working out of town this week and am not able to testify at the public hearings.

In my line of work I am very familiar with the current regulatory and permitting regimes, and something must be done if we are going to continue to have a mining industry in Alaska. Currently it is so easy for anyone to stop or delay almost any permit approval for an indefinite period of time for almost any reason. We need HB77 passed as amended in order to provide some predictability to the permitting process.

I have clients and potential clients who are very hesitant to participate in even grassroots level exploration programs in Alaska. This is because they fear the uncertainties that permit applicants currently face; and the hurdles they know they will face if their programs succeed, and they are in a position to need more technically challenging permits in the future. HB77 is a common sense bill that is a step in the right direction. It will allow my company and others like it to continue to provide good jobs in Alaska, for Alaskans.

Please do not let the anti-progress people win this debate and drive another nail into the coffin of the mining industry in Alaska.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Jim Robinson

Aurora Geosciences (Alaska) Ltd.

Unit B1, 1901 Davis Ave.,
Juneau, AK 99801

From:

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:44 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: cc: I Support HB77

Sent via email to: Representative Saddler

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Patti Wilson
PO Box 671112
24328 Park Dr
Chugiak AK 99567

From: Nancy Brown

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:40 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Support of HB 77

I want to take this opportunity to encourage your "Yes" vote on HB 77 Permitting Reform Bill.

This is a good piece of legislation that will improve permitting in Alaska.

Nancy Brown

sent via iPhone

From: Kerry Jones
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:40 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB77

Please vote YES on this bill!

The State of Alaska and its permitting agencies have undergone review since 2011 to examine their regulatory processes and determine ways to make them more efficient. These efforts included outreach to stakeholders across Alaska, and ultimately resulted in Legislation that allowed the agencies to implement changes to make permitting in Alaska more efficient, predictable, and timely while maintaining their mission of protecting the environment.

HB77 implements changes that will provide certainty and timely response to Alaskans that obtain permits, while maintaining efficiently run state agencies. In these times of trimming the state budget, ensuring that state agencies are able to efficiently issue and manage permits, thus keeping down the cost and time expended, is crucial.

Thanks to special appropriations by the Legislature, DNR is making positive progress on a substantial permit application backlog. The funding has helped reduce the extent of the backlog, but efficiency measures in HB77 help address the cause of the backlogs moving forward.

HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that minor projects can be permitted practically. Section 1 of HB77 makes it clear there is a requirement for public notice and provides opportunity for public input on any general permit. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. General permits are not unprecedented; in fact, they are used by Federal agencies currently.

HB77 requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest attempting to block permits.

HB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so: the science-based expertise of our state resource agencies.

Kerry Jones Eagle River, AK

From:

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 9:11 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: I Support HB77

HB77 is an opportunity to help make the permitting of resource development projects more efficient, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for intentional third party interference to slow the process down.

Importantly, HB77 provides for the issuance of general permits, so that smaller projects can be permitted in a practical way. General permits would cover activities that are already authorized for permit under existing statute. There is ample precedent for the use general permits; in fact, they are widely used by federal agencies.

HB77 also requires that appeals to sales, leases, and land disposals can be done only by those who are directly and negatively impacted by the decision. This brings accountability to the appeals process, ensuring that appeals must be brought only when a directly involved stakeholder is adversely affected by a decision, rather than a special interest group attempting to block or slow down permits.

The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

I encourage your continued support of the bill.

Thank you,

Mike Heatwole
5200 Huffman Road
Anchorage AK 99516

From: davidneesak

Date: March 15, 2014 at 10:10:23 AM AKDT

To: "Sen. Cathy Giessel" <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>, "Sen. Hollis French" <Sen.Hollis.French@akleg.gov>

Subject: Hb 77 Cooper landing view

Reply-To: davidneesak

Dear Senators,

I am represented by both of you. Mr French for my Anchorage home on curlew circle 66% of the year, Sen Giesel for my home on Holben circle cooper landing.

Cooper landing was settled by miners in 1898 their activity had minimal effect on the streams and waters. In fact the dredging of the Kenai river, hydraulic mining of cooper creek, hard rock mining or placer mining of almost every stream is well documented in the book history of mining on the kenai peninsula.

Water was diverted, stream channels changed, hydraulic mining on berth creek in turnagain pass made it look like a moon scape.

Yet all of this activity left the kenai the recreation playground it is.

All of the hiking and biking trails area mining roads. Trails you both hike and ride.

The Chugach National forest was established because of the railroads excessive timber use, not mining.

As I watched the 1920 fox farm cabin get demolished on Holben this winter, I gave thanks to those miners, as Cooper Landing would not exist without them.

When I float the river and pull out at Jims landing, I will be one of the few to give thanks to big and little Jim, who used that piece of property to access their claims on the other side of the river. Land now taken for the public use from private landowners.

Hb77 allows the process of inroads to continue, allows new areas to be opened. Please consider this a support letter.

The only thing I would add is in the appeal process the state senator should be included as a public representative.

Again HB77 is a good bill please vote yes.

David Nees
2542 curlew
19275 Holben

From: karen wilder
Date: March 16, 2014 at 11:14:08 AM AKDT
To: <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB-77

Richard & Karen Wilder Fairbanks support HB-77. We would like to thank you for supporting HB-77

Subject: HB 77

Greetings,

Please support HB77 and simplify the permitting process. This will help put Alaskan to work and promote resource development with the State of Alaska.

Randy Eledge

VP Business Development

Marsh Creek, Energy Systems

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Karen Matteson
5310 Bishops Castle Cir.
Anchorage AK 99516

Subject: CSHB77

Permitting in our state matters to all of us. And it matters that it's done well and in the best interest of ALASKANS. I support CSHB77 because it allows us to continue with public comment, increases the assurances that our state maintains the fairness of use for all Alaskans, and reduces the potential for outside interests to hold up Alaskan projects. As a business owner whose clients are 90% Alaskan small businesses, I rely on my customers being successful. They are lodge owners, floatplane operators, and contractors. As they expand and apply for permits, it is imperative that those permits move smoothly and appropriately. Building an addition, a hangar, or new tourism attraction is critical to their success. Being held up by anti-development activists, who have won the paper chase, is vastly detrimental to a small business. Small business dollars cannot wait months and months for a decision. I am not opposed to a proper process that protects our great state. And I don't think you'll find many Alaskans that disagree. We want our beauty to be maintained, with responsible, reliable, and responsive development, with good solid permitting processes.

I encourage a yes vote on this bill. Let's show Alaska business owners that we are OPEN for business and we're SERIOUS about it.

Renee Schofield, CEO
TSS, Inc
Ketchikan, AK 99901

From: Chris Kennedy

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:11 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: Please vote Yes on HB77

Senator's;

I support HB77;

“Alaska must be rigorous, science based, transparent and predictable and HB77 fulfills that expectation. We thank you for hearing this bill and urge you to pass it out of committee in its current form.”

Thank You

Chris Kennedy
General Manager

Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC.

From: Jeff Keener

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:26 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Subject: HB77 .. a professional's perspective

Greetings All and thank you for the opportunity to comment about HB77. I have been working as a professional mining/geological consultant in Alaska for 25 years and for 20 of those years, have been directly involved with permitting exploration and placer mining projects. In my opinion, the General Permit for federal agencies has worked remarkably well and I would highly encourage you to utilize this principle in regards to the State's regulatory interest in smaller, routine development projects. It saves a tremendous amount of time (for everyone involved) and money (state & industry) when proposed activities are evaluated for the criteria given in the general permit stipulations, and if the project meets these stipulations, the project moves forward. In no way does this give anyone the green light to break the law or violate the stipulations of the general permit or any other regulation.

Everyone needs to keep in mind that the proposed activities are perfectly legal and lawful and performed on lands specifically authorized for the proposed activity, with statutory rights & obligations to conduct such activities. The general permit does not exempt, waive, or excuse anyone from complying with all laws, regulations and statutes that are relevant to the proposed activity. The general permits on the federal side are very specific as to the allowed and prohibited use of the lands and resources. There is no reason to think that the State of Alaska couldn't perform even better than the federal government. Permit applications and permits are public documents, available to the public upon request and if anyone has a specific concern about a specific project, they can raise their concern at any time.

In my experience, which is shared ubiquitously with my colleagues, one the biggest problems in dealing with regulatory agencies is lack of timely response. The federal government is horrible about this and intentionally, so. You have to wonder who is serving whom? The state agencies are much better and more responsive to Alaskans, and could be improved upon with the institution of general permits for routine activities.

Let's reduce the useless paperwork and help put Alaskans to work on their productive projects. The State of Alaska has a stronger interest in promoting development, not in discouraging development of our lands..

I strongly urge you to approve HB77.

Regards,

Jeff Keener

President & Chief Geologist

Metallogeny, Inc.

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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The current version of CSHB77 ensures that Alaska's water resources are managed by those who are best equipped to do so - agency staff with science-based expertise. Further, important changes have been made to the bill to address concerns raised over the interim.

Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mrs. Belinda Breaux
President
Breux Leadership Solutions
11401 Mountain Lake Dr
Anchorage AK 99516

From: Ken Hall

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 1:42 PM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; sen.Fred; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: Ken Hall

Subject: HB&&

Senators,

Thank you for your service to the State of Alaska and its citizens.

I would like to go on record as supporting HB77. The intent of the Bill is to offer clarification and streamlining to the permitting process.

If passed there is ample opportunity for public comment and by stake holders, Alaskans will be heard regarding the issuing permits of which they have an interest in. A key ingredient of this bill is the attempt add an accountability to the appeals process by those that have an interest in a decision. The hope is this would limit the assault on development of Alaska's resources. Unfortunately Alaska's responsible resource development has been restricted by cumbersome restrictions and permitting processes, the intent of this bill is to help in streamlining the process yet protecting the environment and stakeholders.

I support passage of HB77.

Thank you

Ken Hall

2506 Kuskokwim Ave

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

RE: I Support HB77

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Patrick Rumley
Financial Planner
Rumley Investment Services
3312 Purdue Street
Anchorage AK 99508

Dear Governor Parnell:

HB77 is a rare opportunity to streamline the permitting of resource development projects, make the process more predictable and reduce the opportunity for third party lawsuits and other project-stopping mischief. In addition, it will help our state permitting agencies manage their permitting activities more efficiently and effectively.

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Finally, a very important feature of HB77 is that it diminishes the ability of so-called environmental advocacy organizations to abuse the system and stop projects. This is extremely important to Alaska's economic future.

Bottom line: This bill will cut the red tape and put Alaskans to work.

I urge you to support the bill!

Thank you,

Mr. Don Morrison
10641 Elies Drive
Anchorage AK 99507

I am unable to attend today's LIO meeting, but I encourage you to vote Yes on HB77. I've heard the overwhelming testimonies you received on Wednesday's LIO testimonies and I'm convinced the majority of those people never read the revised bill or are sheep within special interest groups. Their emotional statements of harming the environment, salmon, traditional way of life etc. is fundamentally flawed. This bill would simply allow the processing of permits to run more efficiently.

I am involved in the effort to eradicate the invasive weed Elodea from our streams and lakes on the Kenai Peninsula and am fully aware of the current hurdles in obtaining permits – hurdles that have delayed the treatment of this harmful weed on salmon development. HB77 will bring accountability to the appeals process and avoid the bottle-necking by special interest groups on issues which they have not direct involvement.

Please vote Yes on HB77.

Thank you,

Michele Hartline

Nikiski, Alaska

Dear Senator Giessel: please find attached a letter supporting 2d SCS CSHB 77(Res) from Tower Hill Mines – Livengood Gold Project. Thank you and the Resources Committee for your work on this important issue for Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rick Solie

Manager, Investor & Community Relations

Tower Hill Mines - Livengood Gold Project

506 Gaffney Road

Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

From: John Lamborn
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 7:43 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB-77

Senator Giessel,

Thank you for your support for HB77. I hope it isn't too late. I understand the antis were there opposing this measure. My guess is they were either paid to be there by Gillam and pals or just don't have anything better to do with their welfare money. I was at work and unable to attend. Please continue your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

John C. Lamborn
Sterling, AK

DIRTech, LLC

PO Box 82871
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
(907) 378-2819

Attention: *Senate Resources Committee*

Regarding: *HB77*

Summary: YES VOTE

Dear Members,

With this letter, I am exercising the privilege to have my voice heard in the decision making process of our government.

In support of HB77, I would like to emphasize the language used in the Mission Statement of Alaska's Constitution. It is the priority to "encourage development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest" while concurrently "protecting the environment". The Reform is consistent with our mission.

I appreciate the combined knowledge and discretion that you, the Senate Resource Committee, have while evaluating the passage of this Bill. I know that as you evaluate the support vs. opposition you will take full consideration of applicable and accurate testimonies. As with any sound decision, erroneous data will only produce bad results and should be disregarded. I have confidence that you have read and understand the provisions in HB77 and recognize false testimony.

I support this Bill and I support the Members of this Committee as the decision is made. Please, don't allow the talented and intelligent workforce of our government to continue to waste time in the same way every day. Enable them, enable us and vote YES on HB77.

Cordially,

Yvette Lancaster
Managing Member
Dirtech, LLC

From: Dan Graham
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 5:12 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: Follow-Up on CSHB77

Senator Giessel, Senator Micciche and Senator Bishop –

We have been paying attention to the proceedings regarding CSHB77 and are aware of all of the emotional testimony given. However, the majority of the testimony does not reflect the factual content of the bill. We see that those opposed to the bill and resource development are STILL claiming the bill will single handedly allow mining projects to mine through salmon streams with no public input. As we discussed with you this past fall, there is nothing that we see in the bill that would remove a single public review period for large projects such as ours. The bill has no effect of ADF&G and USACE permit requirements for work in and around salmon streams – it is a DNR permit bill.

In my view, the changes made in the CS address the key items raised by both Sen Bishop and Micciche as well as in the public hearings held on the Kenai prior to the session. We applaud you for using that public process and trying to address the concerns you have. We find it disappointing that those insistent on opposing the bill refuse to acknowledge those changes and continue to submit negative comments based on false facts without addressing specific points in the bill as Senator Giessel had requested at the start of Friday's testimony.

We urge you to hold true to the facts and please do not succumb to the emotional rhetoric. CSHB77 helps free up valuable staff resources away from spending time on repetitive type minor activities so they can focus on the more complex individual permits and further reduce the permit backlog. Reducing the backlog was a mandate given to DNR – this bill will help them achieve that mandate while still protecting the environment.

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From: Family Fueg

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 8:32 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel

Subject: Support for HB 77

Dear Senator Giessel

As a family that makes our living from the oil and mining industries, we have both seen firsthand the importance of a robust and efficient permitting process to resource development in Alaska and the misuse of that process by those with anti-development agenda whose goal is not to protect the environment, but simply to stop any and all development in our State.

HB 77 will improve the efficiency of the permitting process and also help to prevent some of the ongoing abuses of that process. We would like to thank you for your leadership in helping to craft compromise language for HB77 that addresses the concerns of all Alaskans and encourage you to continue moving the bill forward to a YES vote in the Senate.

Thank you,

James and Esther Fueg