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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2014

1. Call to order – Phil Cochrane, President
2. Head table Introductions
3. Staff Report – Kati Capozzi, Projects Coordinator
4. Program and Keynote Speaker:

King Salmon Conservation Issues on the Kenai

Ricky Gease, Executive Director, Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Next Upcoming Meeting:

Thursday, March 20: Chris Rose, Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list:

Name/Title: _____

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- Senator Mark Begich
- Senator Lisa Murkowski
- Congressman Don Young
- Governor Sean Parnell

RDC Action Alert

Keystone XL Pipeline: National Interest Determination

Overview:

The U.S. Department of State is in the process of determining whether TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL Pipeline (KXL) is in the national interest. The pipeline would run from the Canadian border to connect to a pipeline in Steele City, Nebraska. The Department's determination involves consideration of many factors, including energy security, health, environmental, cultural, economic, and foreign policy concerns.

Action Requested:

The public comment period on the national interest determination will close on Friday, March 7th. RDC encourages its members to send brief comments urging the Department of State to expeditiously approve KXL. There are two ways to submit comments. The public is encouraged to submit comments to [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Comments may also be mailed directly to:

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Energy Resources, Room 4843
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

For those who prefer to send in a prepared letter to the federal agency (which you can edit), please click on the following link:

<http://buildkxlnow.org/take-action/sign-up/>

Points to consider in your comments:

- By supporting domestic production and oil imports from our close ally Canada instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national and energy security.
- The 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline is positive proof that a project the magnitude of KXL can be built and operated safely, putting tens of thousands of people to work and strengthening the economy.
- The Keystone XL Pipeline will have minimal impact on the environment. Studies have found KXL will be less invasive than if oil was transported by rail car or barge. The pipeline's pumping stations are powered by electric motors which have little direct emissions.

- The U.S. Department of State found the KXL project would not cause “substantial impact on the rate of development in the oil sands, or on the amount of heavy crude oil refined in the Gulf coast area,” meaning the project would not have a direct effect on the greenhouse gas emissions from the production and consumption of oil.
- TransCanada has agreed to an additional 57 safety requirements and has routed the pipeline to avoid any potential environmentally-sensitive areas. In the U.S., over 170,000 miles of liquid pipelines transport 11.3 billion barrels of petroleum each year. American pipelines maintain the lowest spill rate per volume than any other transported method available.
- KXL will provide U.S. refineries with upwards of 830,000 barrels of crude each day, decreasing overseas imports by 43 percent and increasing the overall supply of oil.
- This stable long-term supply of energy from Canada would make the U.S. more energy self sufficient and help mitigate supply disruptions, which ultimately means greater price stability for American consumers.
- KXL is expected to create 42,000 manufacturing and construction jobs in the U.S., as well as provide billions of dollars in property tax revenue to Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The project will add \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy, including over \$2 billion in salaries.
- KXL will transport more than 830,000 barrels of oil per day from domestic and Canadian sources, resolving infrastructure constraints for Bakken oil in North Dakota.

Thank you!



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

February 24, 2014

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Energy Resources, Room 4843
Attn: Keystone XL Public Comments
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Re: Support for Keystone XL Pipeline – National Interest Determination

Dear Secretary Kerry:

I am writing on behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) in support of TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Keystone XL will be critical to improving American energy security and boosting the economy. RDC urges the U.S. Department of State to expeditiously approve the Presidential Permit necessary for this project to move forward.

RDC is an Alaskan organization comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Keystone XL has undergone the most thorough and exhaustive environmental assessment ever conducted for a cross-border pipeline. In fact, the project has endured a multi-year, rigorous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, including five environmental reviews. The State Department affirmed in its Final Environmental Impact Statement that the project would not pose significant impact to the environment nor exacerbate carbon emissions. Included in its study, the agency noted that TransCanada agreed to an additional 57 safety requirements, which will make this pipeline the safest ever constructed and operated in the United States. Those requirements include: a higher number of remotely controlled shut-off valves, increased pipeline inspections, and burying the pipe deeper in the ground.

The full range of environmental impacts of the pipeline has been thoroughly evaluated and multiple opportunities for public comment on the project has occurred. The project will drive significant economic growth in the United

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States. The pipeline is expected to create nearly 42,000 manufacturing and construction jobs in the United States, as well as provide billions of dollars in property tax revenue to Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The project will add \$3.4 billion to the U.S. economy, including over \$2 billion in salaries. Furthermore, American consumers will benefit from a greater supply of stable, affordable energy.

By supporting domestic production and oil imports from our close ally Canada instead of politically unstable countries, we will strengthen both our national and energy security. Access to affordable, stable supplies of petroleum remains one of the most vital components for a growing economy. However, the uncertainty about long-term supplies is a critical issue that the United States must confront. With global demand steadily rising and political instability spreading throughout oil-exporting nations, the United States must permit Keystone XL as a means to boost our energy security and ensure adequate supplies for American consumers. Keystone will decrease overseas imports by 43 percent and increase our overall supply of oil.

Keystone will transport more than 830,000 barrels of oil per day from domestic and Canadian resources, resolving infrastructure constraints that have forced increasing volumes of oil to be transported via rail. Pipelines have an excellent safety record and are most efficient in transporting the resource over long distances.

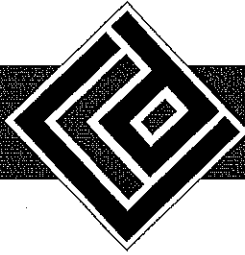
The 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) has a strong safety record and has transported more than 16 billion barrels of oil to American markets since throughput began in 1977. In the late 1980s, TAPS transported more than two million barrels of oil daily, which accounted for 20 percent of American domestic production. TAPS is positive proof that a project the size of Keystone XL can be built and operated safely, putting thousands of Americans to work, and strengthening the economy.

RDC believes that construction of the Keystone XL pipeline is in the best interest of all Americans. We respectfully request that the Department of State expeditiously approve the project and grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit necessary to begin building the pipeline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director



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Senate Resources Committee on SB 138
Feb. 19, 2014

Testimony of Rick Rogers, Executive Director, Resource Development Council

Good evening madam chair and members of the committee. 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. RDC supports policies aimed at increasing the commercial viability of developing Alaska's natural gas resources.

Alignment and Durability, two words that are used so much in resource policy deliberations that perhaps they become cliché. But if we are going to move forward in monetizing north-slope gas, these are both essential.

The "Heads of Agreement" aligning the interests of the three major North Slope producers (ExxonMobil, BP and ConocoPhillips), TransCanada, the State administration and the State-owned Alaska Gas line Development Corporation (AGDC) is a major step forward. This represents unprecedented alignment of interests in moving forward in developing this world-class gas resource for both in state use and export. Getting the producers, the State and TransCanada on the same page is unprecedented. With the recent announcement of the Heads of Agreement, we can see a path forward to a single project involving the producers, TransCanada and the state through a newly formed subsidiary of AGDC.

Unlike oil, LNG is sold on long-term multi-decade contracts. An LNG project will require durable and predictable fiscal terms, and the heads of agreement and authorizing SB138 provides for a stepped approach forward in defining the state's participation including fiscal terms and a corresponding equity interest.

As Alaskans we need to have a serious and deliberate conversation about Alaska's role in such a project. SB138 will require lots of work and analysis and I am impressed with the deliberate due diligence this committee is undertaking. We need to carefully weight the risks, the rewards with a realistic eye on the need to compete globally with dozens of other jurisdictions and projects hoping to secure project backing.

Rick Rogers, RDC
Testimony to Senate Resources, on SB138, February 19, 2014

Without question the most beneficial gas line project for Alaskans is a large capacity line sanctioned by the producers in partnership with the State. Fundamental project economics, largely out of our control, will dictate whether this project ever gets constructed.

To have any hope for monetizing gas, we must maintain a robust oil industry on the slope. Oil pays the bills and supports the vast and complex infrastructure on the North Slope needed to produce gas. If we fail to defeat the ballot referendum repealing SB21 in August, we signal to the producers and the world that we lack the long-term vision essential in developing our gas resources.

RDC believes alignment of interests; durable agreements including fiscal terms; and maintaining a vibrant competitive oil industry are vital to gas line development. The deliberate stepped approach to moving this project forward with an eye towards alignment and durability is our best hope for an economically viable large capacity LNG project. We also need to weigh the project risks against the risks of failure to monetize our gas.

We encourage the committee to continue with its due diligence and to pass enabling legislation this session, recognizing that this is a stepped approach with further legislative decision points and off ramps down the road as the project matures.

Thank-you for the opportunity to testify.

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources



WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) today responded to the Environmental Protection Agency’s release of the final watershed assessment of state-owned lands in Alaska’s Bristol Bay region:

“EPA’s assessment stops short of prohibiting responsible development in the Bristol Bay watershed, but the agency has strongly implied that this report will be a basis to preemptively veto economic opportunities in the region in the future,” Murkowski said. “I remain convinced that a preemptive veto of a mine or any other project, which the agency claims it can do under the Clean Water Act, would set a terrible precedent for development in our state and across the nation.”

Murkowski has continually criticized EPA for conducting the assessment based on a hypothetical mine, before any plan or permit application has been filed with the agency.

“If the EPA has concerns about the impact of a project there is an appropriate time to raise them – after a permit application has been made, not before. It is clear that a preemptive veto is still being considered by EPA. Such a veto is quite simply outside the legal authority that Congress intended to provide EPA,” Murkowski said.

Murkowski has twice written to EPA ([Feb. 16, 2011](#) and [April 18, 2012](#)) about her concerns with the agency’s Bristol Bay watershed assessment, including whether a decision by the agency to block a large-scale mining operation could set a legal precedent that would prevent other development proposals. EPA responded on [Mar. 21, 2011](#), and [May 17, 2012](#).

###

Permalink: <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2014/1/sen-murkowski-comments-on-final-bristol-bay-watershed-assessment>



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NEWS ARTICLE

FEBRUARY 28, 2014

404 PROCESS IS PREMATURE AND UNPRECEDENTED

Tom Collier, CEO of the Pebble Limited Partnership, issued the following statement regarding today's decision by the Environmental Protection Agency to initiate a 404c process for the Pebble Project:

"We remain confident in our project and our position. We will continue to state our case with the EPA as we work through their process. The EPA's actions today are an unprecedented federal action and reflect a major overreach onto an asset of the State of Alaska. There is a prescribed, science based process for evaluating projects such as Pebble and the EPA has initiated a step that turns this process on its head.

"The Bristol Bay Assessment released earlier this year is not sufficient for any type of agency decision making. The EPA's Peer Reviewers and staff within the agency agree and stated this in a report published alongside the Bristol Bay Assessment. They stated throughout their report that they would expect to receive more information about a range of issues and decisions in the permitting and NEPA process.

"The steps taken by the EPA to date have gone well outside of its normal practice, have been biased throughout, and have been unduly influenced by environmental advocacy organizations. We have seen sufficient documentation from EPA FOIA materials supporting this position and Northern Dynasty Minerals asked the EPA Inspector General in early January to fully evaluate the entire process.

"As we have stated for many years, we look forward to the opportunity to present our full mine plan and have it properly evaluated under the environmental laws of Alaska and the United States. This is an important asset for the people of Alaska and the minerals in the ground at Pebble are important to our daily lives. "

For additional information contact:

Mike Heatwole, VP Public Affairs

907-339-2600

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this article.

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CS SJR 15 – Relating to Federal land designations

Before House Resources

Testimony provided by Marleanna Hall

Anchorage • March 4, 2014

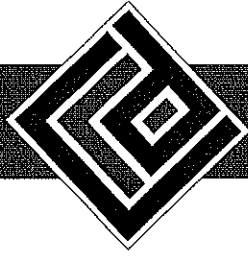
Good afternoon my name is Marleanna Hall. I am a Projects Coordinator for the Resource Development Council. I'm calling in today to testify in support of the Committee Substitute for SJR 15.

RDC is a membership funded, statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries.

It is a policy of RDC to advocate for access to and across lands in Alaska for resource and community development. RDC is concerned the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of the Beringia International Park (Beringia) will create another level of bureaucracy inhibiting access to areas in Alaska.

Additionally, this bill is timely, given the MOU has yet to be signed by the President. Input from those most knowledgeable about Alaska and Alaska's resources should not be ignored. The MOU could seriously jeopardize the ability to access resources that fall in and around Beringia. In addition, past federal government promises assured access to allow resource development in this area and others not set aside through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The passage of ANILCA in 1980 withdrew 106 million acres of federal lands in Alaska into conservation system units. Today, Alaska accounts for 70 percent of all national park lands in the United States, as well as 53 percent of federally designated Wilderness.

RDC urges you to pass the Committee Substitute for SJR 15 out of House Resources and thanks you for your consideration of these comments.



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Karen Matthias

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Congressman Don Young

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March 3, 2014

Mr. Jim Schwarber
State of Alaska Division of Forestry
3700 Airport Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Re: Scoping process for Southeast State Forest Management Plan

Dear Mr. Schwarber:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the scoping process for the Southeast Alaska State Forest draft management plan.

RDC is a statewide non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry-support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC was a strong supporter of the legislation creating the Southeast State Forest in 2010 and subsequent legislation, which added additional units to the forest in 2011. Currently, RDC is working to encourage the Legislature to pass HB 79, which would create the Susitna State Forest.

A major goal of RDC is to build a more diverse and vibrant economy in Southeast Alaska through the restoration of a fully integrated forest products industry. The economic benefits of a healthy forest industry to residents, local communities, and the State of Alaska are significant. The forest industry could once again be a cornerstone of the region's economy, providing direct and indirect year-round jobs and ongoing economic stimulus to local communities.

As you know, the Tongass National Forest (TNF) is well known for its timber resource base, but the vast majority is closed to active forest management. Only 320,000 acres of the 16.7-million acre TNF is open to logging. Overall, less than six percent of Southeast Alaska is available for timber harvesting. An adequate

long-term supply of economic timber is absolutely essential if the forest industry is to play a major role in rebuilding the region's economy.

In Southeast Alaska, demand for timber exceeds supply and local mills are dependent on a consistent supply to stay in business. The majority of the timber is on federal land, but federal timber sales have declined sharply. Subsequently, the demand for state timber from local mills has increased significantly. While the Southeast State Forest does not have the timber base to fully support the industry, it can provide a stable supply of timber to local mills and supplement declining timber harvests on the TNF. It can also provide relief to the industry while it waits for increasing second-growth harvests from the TNF in coming decades.

RDC believes the Southeast State Forest should be managed as a working forest to furnish a continuous supply of timber to the industry. A working forest is one that recognizes the human component of our forest, incentivizes workforce development and local jobs, while providing opportunities to enhance wildlife habitat, recreation, and subsistence activities. A working forest provides many benefits to local communities and can be a cornerstone of their economies.

For decades, the TNF was managed as a working forest, and the Southeast Alaska economy thrived. The forest industry was one of the largest economic sectors in Alaska with 4,600 jobs, mostly spread throughout the Southeast Panhandle. Large manufacturing facilities were major anchors of the region's economy and local tax base.

However, the industry has undergone a major transformation in the past 20 years with new land withdrawals and adverse federal public policy decisions sharply curtailing the timber supply to local mills. Today, only four percent of the entire TNF is available for harvest, while about 85 percent of the forest's largest old-growth remains untouched.

Under the federal government's current management direction, the TNF is likely to produce little in the way of resources to support local economies. Changes to the Tongass Land Management Plan have trumped the congressional mandate to provide for the needs of citizens and communities. The evolution of forest management has effectively redefined the very purpose for which the national forests were established, in direct contradiction to the congressional intent. Although the TNF was established as a working forest, today it is being managed more like a national park.

Given so much of Southeast Alaska is preserved in land management classifications that preclude logging, it is imperative that timber production be the primary use of the Southeast Alaska State Forest. The new management plan for the forest should provide for a reliable, long-term supply of economic timber to the industry.

Much of the new state forest was inherited from the Forest Service with young second-growth stands. These stands should be actively managed to provide for more timber volume per acre on shorter rotations. The shift to second-growth harvesting can be accelerated and timber volume increased on state land by thinning these stands. Thinning is a long-term investment, but it is justified, given the pressing need for a stable, long-term supply of timber.

RDC also supports other multiple uses of the state forest, including recreational activities,

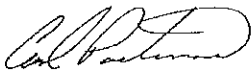
subsistence, wildlife habitat and harvest, and access to other economy-building opportunities, such as mineral exploration and development, should future prospects arise or access across the state forest be required to reach projects elsewhere.

The Alaska Forest Practices Act should serve as the standard to protect water quality and fish habitat in the state forest. The Best Management Practices under this program are overseen by the diverse Board of Forestry, which has concluded that these are effective standards based on scientific compliance and monitoring.

With an adequate long-term supply of timber, the forest industry can make investments in manufacturing and ramp up its operations. These investments can be made by private industry without government funding. All that is needed is an adequate supply of suitable, economic timber.

RDC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the development of a draft management plan for the Southeast Alaska State Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Portman', written in a cursive style.

Carl Portman
Deputy Director



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March 3, 2014

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

Re: Support for SCR 16

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing in support of SCR 16: *Requesting the Governor to investigate and report to the legislature regarding the development of a large coal power plant and associated electric grid to provide energy to residents of the state.*

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. Our membership includes all of the Alaska Native regional corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

It is a policy of RDC to support utilization of Alaska's coal resources for power generation, as well as to support efforts to diversify Alaska's energy sources. RDC believes it is imperative Alaskans and Alaskan businesses have access to reliable and affordable energy.

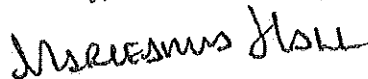
Alaska contains about half of our nation's coal resources, much of which is of higher value due to naturally lower sulfur contents. The low sulfur content makes Alaska's coal some of the cleanest burning in the world.

Coal can provide some of the lowest cost energy of alternatives available. As Alaska is disproportionately impacted by high costs of energy, coal should be among the diverse and cost-effective energy options.

Additionally, Alaska's one large operating mine, Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. has demonstrated a commitment to maintaining and improving the environment. RDC believes these resources and values can help offer affordable energy to Alaskans.

RDC applauds the legislature for introducing this resolution, and urges the members of this committee to pass SCR 16.

Sincerely,


Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

February 21, 2014

Senator Bill Wielechowski
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SJR 5, Federal revenue-sharing from offshore oil and gas development

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support SJR 5, which urges the U.S. Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) a portion of revenue generated from offshore energy development to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support such development and preserve environmental integrity.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. Our membership includes all of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognized the contributions of national security made by the oil-producing states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas and agreed to distribute to those states 37.5 percent of revenue from oil and gas development in newly leased federal waters in the Gulf. Alaska also contributes to national energy security through onshore oil and gas development, and has generated billions of dollars to the federal treasury through offshore leasing. These leases could contain tens of billions of barrels of oil, which in turn could generate hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue.

RDC has consistently supported federal revenue sharing to benefit the State of Alaska and local communities. We agree that states sustaining offshore energy development and production deserve a share of the revenue generated because they support offshore operations and experience impacts to local services and infrastructure.

RDC endorses SJR 5 and fully supports Alaska sharing in the revenues generated from offshore oil and gas leasing, development, and production.

Sincerely,

Carl Portman
Deputy Director

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Lisa Parker

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Keith Silver

Lorali Simon

John Sturgeon

Jan Trigg

Doug Ward

Ex-Officio Members

Senator Mark Begich

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young

Governor Sean Parnell

February 21, 2014

Representatives Eric Feige and Dan Saddler
Co-chairs, House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 79, Susitna State Forest

Dear Representatives Feige and Saddler:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support House Bill 79, which would create the Susitna State Forest on 763,200 acres of state land west of the Parks Highway.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently manages 9.5 million acres of state land in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. The bill would establish the Susitna State Forest from land classified for forestry – lands managed by DNR for timber harvest and other multiple uses. Remaining land is designated for other uses, including land sales, recreation, water resources, agriculture, and fish and wildlife habitat. Over 3.1 million acres is protected in legislatively-designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

The establishment of the Susitna State Forest would ensure that large tracts of land would remain available for long-term forest management that maximizes the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base; develops access and encourages a broad range of uses on state forest land, including motorized uses; and provides economic and recreational opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents.

It would allow the Division of Forestry to more actively manage lands and vegetation to promote a variety of forest ages, which in turn would maximize the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base and provide for more diverse and healthy habitats for wildlife. In addition, active management would also help reduce wildfire risk.

The Division of Forestry would manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to help meet growing regional demand for state timber sales and personal use firewood harvesting. The state forest would also help meet increasing demand for logs, chips, and biomass feedstock for commercial, public school, residential space heating, and wood pellet manufacturing. Local processors depend on a stable long-term supply of state timber for their raw materials. In fact, a dependable long-term supply is required to justify major private investment in processing and manufacturing facilities or expansion of such facilities.

An enhanced long-term timber supply would not only help support the forest products industry, it would create new jobs, and provide important economic opportunities to local communities, businesses, and residents.

There has been some concern expressed by local residents and user groups that the proposed forest may block public access and traditional uses. RDC would not be supporting this bill if that were indeed the case. RDC has a long history of fighting for and preserving access to both federal and state land for the responsible development of natural resources, economic development, job creation, recreation, and traditional uses, including motorized uses. We would be writing in opposition to the bill if it were yet another impediment to access.

DNR is serious about developing access to a newly-designated state forest in the region, including an all-season road to the Little-Su, as well as a permanent bridge crossing. Clearly, the forest would be open for public use and enhance access, wildlife habitat management and harvest, and recreational activities.

Public access on state forests is typically greater than on other state land because active timber management requires expansion of the road system. Access is a major focus of the state forest planning process as plans provide detailed guidance on road design, construction, and maintenance. In fact, DNR has a demonstrated track record of providing access in state forests, with design and management tailored to the resource management needs of each forest.

It is important to keep in mind that HB 79 would establish a new state forest from state lands presently designated for forest management. The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. Alaska's Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.

If established, Susitna would be the fourth state forest in Alaska after the Haines, Tanana, and Southeast State forests. These land units have demonstrated that legislatively-designated forests are a desirable means of ensuring timberlands are available for management while allowing access for other uses.

RDC supports HB 79 and believes the proposed state forest will be of much benefit to the local economy – creating and sustaining much needed jobs in the forest products industry while providing many other opportunities, including public access that doesn't exist today for other multiple uses. We urge the committee to pass HB 79.

Sincerely,



Carl Portman
Deputy Director

cc: Chris Maisch, State Forester
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Rep. Shelley Hughes
Rep. Wes Keller
Rep. Mark Neuman
Rep. Bill Stoltze
Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Sen. Charlie Huggins

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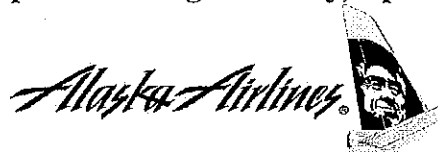
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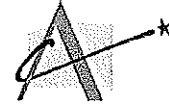
Please Note: Last day to drop off items at our office in Anchorage is March 13, 2014. Thank you!

Please send prizes and completed form to:
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Apply for a scholarship today!

The scholarship recipients will also be provided with a cash stipend from Soroptimist International of Anchorage.

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Mail, fax (272-4117), email (info@anchoragechamber.org) or hand deliver your application to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501. All applications must be received at the Anchorage Chamber office no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Anchorage ATHENA Society

Scholarship Application

Deadline: 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014

Complete entire application form and submit most recent transcript of courses and grades.

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ High School: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Yr. in School (i.e. Jr.): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Legal Guardian's Name: _____ Daytime Phone _____

Legal Guardian's Signature: _____ Home Phone _____

Name of Teacher Reference: _____ Daytime Phone _____

Please attach the following, use separate sheets of paper:

- 1) Most recent transcript of courses;**
- 2) Employment history / business-related classes;**
- 3) Work awards, achievements, community participation;**
- 4) Extra-curricular activities and interests;**

5) Essay question:

Please attach a typed, double-spaced essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the topic: Assume you're starting your own business, what would it be and what steps would you take to make it successful?

Application check list: Application Complete ___ Most Current Transcript ___ Essay ___

Please limit application to no more than 10 pages.

*The scholarship recipient and her parents or legal guardian will be required to execute and return:
(1) Affidavit of eligibility/compliance with the camp rules; (2) publicity release; (3) liability release; and
(4) copy of government issued ID*

Mail, fax (272-4117), email (info@anchoragechamber.org) or hand deliver your application to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501. All applications must be received at the Anchorage Chamber office no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.

Applications are also available at: Anchoragechamber.org; under Program & Events, select Anchorage ATHENA Society.

**Only young women in the Anchorage area (Anchorage, Eagle River/Chugiak and Girdwood) are eligible for this scholarship. For more information on Young Entrepreneurs Business Week, go to yebw.org. For more information about Alaska Business Week, go to alaskachamber.com.*