



April 20, 2023

Senate Finance Committee
HB 39 Public Testimony

Re: Primacy funding for 404 permitting

Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi and I serve as the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. I testify today in support of support for the State assuming primacy of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber has a longstanding position in support of increasing responsible natural resource development by improving the efficiencies of the permitting process and gaining access to our resources. To that end, we thank the members of the legislature that signed on to the bipartisan collation letter sent to our congressional delegation on April 3rd urging efficiencies in the permitting process. One short excerpt from the letter states: "...as our Congressional leaders, we ask you to advocate in favor of reducing burdensome regulations delaying the permitting process and to seek opportunities to streamline the federal review process for the betterment of both Alaskans and the environment." The Alaska Chamber agrees wholeheartedly, and we encourage our state leaders to seize this opportunity to streamline the process by assuming primacy of the 404 program.

As identified in the feasibility study requested by the legislature, state primacy of the 404 program would result in a timelier and better coordinated permitting processes without compromising current regulatory standards and requirements. It would also allow for a greater ability to tailor policies and procedures to Alaska's unique conditions.

In closing, there have been significant federal administrative and legislative actions that have negatively impacted Alaska's businesses and overall investment climate. By providing the support needed to assume the 404 program, the Legislature can bring some desperately-needed stability back to Alaska. A State-run program is accountable to Alaskans and the legislature can and will assure that Alaska has control of its permitting priorities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



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