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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:47 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: FY24 OPERATING BUDGET - ASSUMPTION & FUNDING FOR CLEAN WATER ACT 404

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in support for funding and assumption of the Clean Water Act 404 by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Assumption of this program will:

- Provide more tailored application of this segment of the Clean Water Act and provide consistency and remove the threat of an irregular application as in the case of pre-determined permitting denial for projects such as Pebble
- Provide substantial benefit for miners on other projects, and
- Road builders, and
- Home and building constructors
- Other construction projects in or affecting wetlands.

Assumption of the program will not weaken the stringent requirements of the program, just make them more compatible with Alaska conditions. This will make our administration more predictable in the permitting process. The uniqueness of Alaska makes state assumption very desirable and near-mandatory.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I have a medical appointment and can't testify in person, however, I trust that this will register.

Respectively,

Rich Hughes, PE
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Fairbanks, AK 99701

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