



Department of Environmental Conservation

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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April 3, 2023

The Honorable Craig Johnson, Chair House Rules Committee State Capitol Juneau, AK 99801 *Sent via Email*

Dear Representative Johnson,

As the discussion regarding the state assumption of the 404 program continues, I wanted to provide a few additional documents to assist in your review.

Last week, the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) unanimously passed a resolution in support of federal funding for states that assume the Section 404 permitting program, both for the application process as well as ongoing annual operations.

Additionally, Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection wrote a letter regarding their 404 program and its importance to their state environment and economy.

We remain committed to engaging with Alaska's Tribes, Regional Corporations, and Village Corporations on this issue and last week we met with the Kenaitze tribe to discuss the state's 404 assumption efforts and answer questions. We will continue to meet with any and all Tribes throughout the assumption process and ongoing operations.

Sincerely,

Jason Brune, Commissioner

Attachments: ECOS Resolution 2023-04-03 NJDEP Cmmr Ltr to Alaska Leg re CWA 404 Wetlands Primacy

cc: Alaska State Legislature