



Alaska Conservation Alliance

Uniting for Alaska's Future

February 9, 2009

The Honorable Reggie Joule
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 74 – Coastal Management Program

Dear Representative Joule,

On behalf of the Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA), a consortium of 40 Alaska-based conservation groups with a combined membership of over 38,000 Alaskans, I would like to express our support for HB 74, an act that revises the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Currently, the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP) is not currently meeting many of the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. Under the CZMA, it is the state's responsibility to create and implement management programs that protect the coastal zones and "achieve wise use of the land and water resources...giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic and esthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development." *Id. as* § 1452(2). Alaska's version of this program, ACMP, as it is currently implemented, is in need of the open, honest and through revision your bill will provide.

HB74 would restore checks and balances by establishing a Coastal Policy Board with representation from state agencies as well as coastal districts, repeal the DEC carve-out, reaffirm the ability of the coastal districts to write enforceable policies and incorporate subsistence into the objectives of the program. These changes would go a long way towards addressing the negative effects of the 2003 changes made by the Murkowski Administration to limit the ability of the public and coastal districts to participate in the management of Alaska's coastal areas.

I strongly encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass HB 74. Thank you for your time and dedication to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Troll".

Kate Troll
Executive Director