

Ballot Measure 2 – Restoring Alaskan Voices to Coastal Management Talking Points

Alaska has a lot stake. Alaska has more coastline than all the Lower 48 states combined, yet we're the ONLY coastal state without a coastal management program. Our coastal and marine resources support families and economies around the state, and they provide recreation and tourism opportunities found nowhere else in the world. Alaskans need a voice in decisions that affect these vital resources.

Alaskans have a right to shape decisions affecting our coastal resources. The coastal management program is the ONLY law that REQUIRES the federal government to listen to Alaskans in decisions affecting our coastal resources. Without it, Alaskans can submit comments, but the feds can ignore us. So, if the feds want to permit a fish farm off our coast, we'd have no way to stop them. This is a states' right issue, and its alarming Governor Parnell and some of the largest mining, oil and gas corporations on the planet want to give away Alaskans' rights to the federal government.

Coastal management promotes responsible development. Jay Hammond introduced the Alaska Coastal Management Act in 1976, and since 1977, every coastal project – from Prudhoe Bay to Juneau, and from Anchorage to Dillingham – went through coastal management review. And they were better for it, because they incorporated local knowledge and concerns. Contrary to the misinformation spread by Ballot Measure 2 opponents, the coastal program does not give local communities a veto power over coastal projects – only the opportunity to provide input.

Coastal management streamlines the permitting system. The coastal management program facilitated permitting, by creating a one-stop permitting hub for all permits and authorizations. It creates predictability for industry, and transparency for Alaskans to understand projects unfolding in their backyards. Without coastal management, Alaskans are in the dark about a host of important permit decisions that affect their communities. Contrary to the misinformation put out by the corporations opposed to Alaskan involvement in coastal decisions, the coastal management program did not – according to the state's own records – produce undue project delays. See the States data at:

<http://inletkeeper.org/resources/contents/stats-on-how-long-it-takes-dgc-to-review-projects>

Outside corporations are working to buy this election. Large and powerful oil, gas, mining and cruise ship corporations – through their front groups (Alaska Oil & gas Association, Resource Development Council, Alaska Miners Association, Council of Producers, Alaska Cruise Association) are dumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into this election to scare and confuse voters into giving up our right as Alaskans to shape coastal development decisions. These corporations are outspending local Alaskans 10 to 1 in their quest to retain coastal decision making in the hands of the federal government. See the APOC Donor Stats:

<http://inletkeeper.org/resources/contents/ballot-measure-2-opposition-donations-by-location>

Everyday Alaskans support local voices in coastal decision making. While giant multi-national corporations are fighting to stifle Alaskan voices in coastal management, small businesses, fishermen, and local leaders and politicians across the state support Ballot Measure 2. This is a David vs. Goliath battle that will define whether Alaskans play a meaningful role in coastal decisions for many years to come.