



July 17, 2012

VIA EMAIL ONLY

acmpcomments@alaska.gov &
mead.treadwell@alaska.gov

Mead Treadwell, Lieutenant Governor
State of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol Building, Third Floor
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR BALLOT MEASURE 2 – ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dear Lieutenant Governor Treadwell:

Cook Inletkeeper is a nonprofit organization formed by Alaskans in 1995 to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. Please accept these comments strongly supporting the above-referenced ballot measure on behalf of Inletkeeper and its more than 1200 members and supporters throughout Alaska.

I have considerable experience with ocean and coastal issues generally, and the Alaska Coastal Management Program specifically. Among other things, I obtained a certificate in Ocean & Coastal Law from the University of Oregon Law School, and I completed a NOAA fellowship focused on ocean and coastal issues in the U.S. Senate.

When I started work with Cook Inletkeeper in 1996, Alaska had perhaps the finest coastal management program in the nation. Contrary to the misinformation spread by various large corporations and their front groups (e.g., AOGA, AMA, RDC), the ACMP facilitated orderly development by serving as a one-stop permitting hub for timely and efficient decision making. According to the now-defunct Division of Governmental Coordination, the ACMP rarely resulted in project delays, and if it did, it was typically because the applicant had failed to provide enough information on which to base informed decisions.

The current ballot measure will not restore the full scope of local control found in the ACMP prior to the administration of Frank Murkowski. Nonetheless, Ballot Measure 2 is vitally important to protect Alaska's state's rights, because without it, Alaska has no meaningful voice on federal projects (aside from the ability to submit comments). As development ensues in federal waters and lands across Alaska, it's crucial the state has the legal authority to shape federal decision making in the best interest of Alaskans. If the Parnell Administration is serious about protecting Alaskan interests, it will recognize and embrace the well-balanced approach created under Ballot Measure 2.

Thank you for considering these comments and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Shavelson".

Bob Shavelson
Inletkeeper