



Myths & Facts

Ballot Measure 2: Alaska Coastal Management Program

Large corporations and their front groups (including the Alaska Oil & Gas Association, the Alaska Miners Association, the Resource Development Council and others) are spreading fear and lies about Ballot Measure 2. They do not want Alaskans to have a voice in federal decisions that affect our coastal resources; instead, they want the federal government to make those decisions for us.

MYTH: Adds another layer of government. **FACT:** Coastal management reduces duplication by coordinating existing local, state and federal permit reviews; helps developers navigate the permitting process; and helps resolve issues raised by permitting agencies.

MYTH: There are enough other laws that give Alaska the ability to influence federal decisions. **FACT:** Coastal management is the only program that requires federal agencies to listen to and resolve Alaskans' concerns before approving federal permits for coastal activities; other programs only require consideration of state and local comments.

MYTH: Stops or delays development projects. **FACT:** Coastal management identifies and resolves potential conflicts between coastal resource uses, allowing development to proceed with fewer hurdles; robust development occurred during the thirty-four years the coastal program was in place, a new program will provide for the same.

MYTH: Creates a new, unaccountable and unelected policy board to set coastal statewide policy without the necessary technical knowledge or expertise to oversee responsible coastal development and with few concrete standards to guide their decision-making. **FACT:** The initiative creates the Coastal Policy Board with nine public members nominated by coastal districts and appointed by the governor and four state agency commissioners; the Board will oversee development of the coastal program but management and permitting authority remains with state agencies; Alaska communities can be trusted to nominate board members with the expertise necessary to make a good program; the initiative establishes objectives and requirements for the new program to which the Board must adhere; the public regulatory process will ensure the Board meets statutory requirements.

MYTH: Gives coastal communities the ability to veto a development project. **FACT:** The coastal program gives coastal communities an effective voice on issues of local significance but not the ability to veto projects; in addressing local issues, coastal district plans must adhere to specific requirements established in the initiative.

MYTH: The initiative is a defective, deceptive measure that would create confusion and legal uncertainty. **FACT:** The initiative is simple. It gives Alaskans a seat at the table with industry, the state, and the federal government. With passage of the initiative, all Alaskans will have a part in the conversation on coastal management.

MYTH: Does not restore the prior coastal management program, but substitutes a new, complex and bureaucratic regulatory regime. **FACT:** Rather than recreate the prior program that was not working for local coastal communities, the initiative lays the foundation for the creation of a new, improved program with the benefit of public involvement through the regulatory process.

MYTH: Does not include clear triggers for coastal program project reviews; contains no requirement for timely permitting. **FACT:** The initiative requires that the new regulations establish review timelines and the permits and activities that will trigger a coastal program project review; specifics were not included in the initiative in order to provide an opportunity for public input to improve the process.

MYTH: Expands the scope of Alaska's coast to include any use or resource that could affect a coastal region. **FACT:** The initiative does not address whether activities inland of the coastal zone that affect coastal uses or resources would be subject to coastal program review, leaving it to regulation to establish the type of activities that will trigger a review.

MYTH: Extends the coastal program miles inland from coastal areas. **FACT:** The initiative adopts the same coastal zone boundary in place prior to 2003.

MYTH: A coastal program is too expensive. **FACT:** During the first years of the program only a small staff will be needed to develop program regulations; federal funding for the coastal program will be available once the program receives federal approval.

Contact Bob Shavelson, Inletkeeper, at 907.299.3277 or bob@inletkeeper.org for additional information. Information for this fact sheet was derived from the Alaska Sea Party web site: <http://www.alaskacoastalmanagement.org/>