

Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4993
Fax: (907) 465-3872

Interim:
716 W 4th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 269-0200
Fax: (907) 269-0204

Senator Drue Pearce
District F

April 20, 2000

Representative Ramona Barnes
District 22, East Anchorage
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative Barnes:

Thank you for your letter dated April 19, 2000 regarding SB 273. I share your appreciation of the environmental concerns which prompted this legislation.

I agree that the government working together with interested parties is a time-honored process. Which is why we have held over 10 hours of working group meetings, outside of the committee process, on the bill and have been flexible in addressing the concerns of industry so long as we were still meeting the intent of the legislation. To date, we have adopted every amendment that has been offered.

I believe that the negotiated regulation process, established by legislation, the passage of which we both supported, is the best place to resolve the remaining details. The remaining items of concern largely involve contingency plan requirements for non-tanker vessels and do not involve the railroad or the financial responsibility requirements.

Therefore, in the spirit of compromise I offer the following two-part approach. First, remove the sections in SB 273 dealing with contingency plan requirements for non-tanker vessels. Leave everything else the way it stands. This would allow the remaining portion of the bill dealing with the railroad and financial responsibility provisions to move from committee and pass the legislature this session. Second, amend the proposed resolution to remove the language dealing with the railroad and financial responsibility. This would leave the task force with the single focus of resolving the remaining details regarding contingency plan requirements for non-tanker vessels.

Sincerely,

Drue Pearce
Senate President