

Blankenship, Johni

2015-14

From: Mary Griswold <mgrt@xyz.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Ord 2015-14 Proposed Watershed protection adjustment

(please include in public comments)

I strongly oppose Ord 2015-14 reducing the water bodies subject to protection. Important waters in need of protection far exceed the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. Please keep the current development restrictions in place. I am an owner of property on a small stream on the south side of Kachemak Bay subject to the development limitations and am very willing to abide by them to protect habitat for several species of Salmon, which I look forward to catching every summer. Please let's try to be responsible about land development. In the long run it will enhance property values and provide future generations some of the great recreational opportunities we practically take for granted until they disappear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Griswold
Homer

Blankenship, Johni

From: Rachel Lord <rachel.e.lord@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni; Navarre, Mike; Ostrander, Paul
Subject: Ordinance 2015-14

Dear Assembly and Mayor Navarre,

I'm extremely disheartened with the introduction of Ordinance 2015-14. I know there are issues that keep coming up, even after the Assembly has made earlier decisions. However the rationale behind revisiting an issue - especially one which took so much time for the Assembly and the Mayor's Office, had a dedicated Task Force with many public meetings, and a record turnout for public hearing - should be justified and rational. The rationale behind attempting to rollback KPB 21.18 to the mid-90s is anything but justified.

I cannot figure out how Mr. Bagley and Mr. Ogle figure that the only waters in the Kenai Peninsula Borough that are worth protecting for salmon are found within the Kenai and Kasilof watersheds. What is the basis for this assumption? What data back this up?

Are the salmon in the Anchor River not important? The Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Stariski, Fox, Swanson, Bishop, Crescent, and so many other systems that residents live on and depend on for their salmon?

The statement within the Ordinance that "the primary waters in need of protection are found in the Kenai Watershed and the Kasilof Watershed;" is baseless, without biological merit, and should be thrown out. At that point, the basis for this proposed ordinance is undermined and the entire Ordinance should be thrown out.

Although I was sorely disappointed in the introduction of Ord 2015-14, I will look forward to participating in public testimony later this month.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lord

Blankenship, Johni

From: Benjamin Gibson <benjagibson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:51 PM
To: Wolf, Kelly; Gilman, Blaine; Ogle, Wayne; Bagley, Dale; Welles, Stan; McClure, Sue; Johnson, Brent; Cooper, Kelly; Haggerty, Mako; Blankenship, Johni; Navarre, Mike; Ostrander, Paul
Subject: Ordinance 2015-14

Assembly and Mayor;

Ordinance 2015-14 is a bad deal. I'm not a fan of heavy-handed regulation, and I could list a handful of examples of so called "government overreach", but your attempt to roll back habitat protection for anadromous (salmon-bearing) streams is misguided and bespeaks a worrying lack of critical thinking.

The property boundaries of the owners are inclusive of streams and lakefronts, but those rights do not extend to the fish that live in them, similarly, they should not include the right of those property owners to destroy habitat. Purchasing stream or lakefront property does not give those property owners the right to destroy habitat. Are most people destroying habitat--no obviously not--but there are always new arrivals and ignorant people (see how many people text and drive, etc). The fish that live in those streams are my fish just as much as they are that property owner's fish. I want baseline protection for habitat, and 50 feet in all streams and lakes is pretty baseline.

You have argued both that the number of property owners affected by the ordinance is large, and that the density of development is not significant enough to warrant action. Aside from the internal dissonance of this position, I suggest that it is better to establish this protection before the density is greater still (as this is obviously the direction we are going) and to provide full cognizance to future property owners of the responsibility they have to habitat protection. Obviously, property owners on lakes and streams hold a uniquely leveraged position with regards to the continued survival of our salmon stocks (it is not as if they are moose and can wander further away from the subdivisions). This leveraged position needs to be protected -- just because someone has money to buy the property, does not mean that they will be responsible stewards. It is obviously a perfect place for government to provide common protection against bad actors. It is not that different of a mandate than protecting us all from drunken drivers. I would support a reduction in the mill rate or a limited property tax exemption on affected properties-- this seems only fair for a public good. I expect that property values would still remain high for such precious stream front and lakefront real estate.

There is the charge that the Borough should not be the regulating body for such activity. The Borough regulates land use and, really folks... I would rather the Borough provided the services aptly over the State and Federal government providing them ineptly. But don't get me wrong, I would rather even have the state or feds do it, than leave the fate of *my* fish and *your* fish in the hands of people who might not care or care to find learn. The presence of salmon in *all* of our lakes and streams is such an important character to why we live here, that I would not want to even *risk* the damages to the habitat-- And for what in return? The right to feel master of one's domain and mow all the way to the lake shore?

It's not a UN plot, it's not government overreach, it is protecting my rights from either ignorance, or lack of care on the part of others.

Please don't roll back the habitat protections. It's not a "values" thing, its a critical thinking thing.

Ben Gibson

Blankenship, Johni

2015-14

From: Jane Marshall <dandy2@att.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 1:36 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: Repeal of 50 foot Habitat Buffer

Mr. Blankenship,

I would like to comment on the proposal to repeal the 50 foot habitat buffer on many of the streams that support anadromous fish. I believe it would be very short-sighted to do so - these streams need all the protection we can give them. The 50 foot buffer was a compromise - much less than recommended by the task force and those agencies charged with preserving the state's fisheries resources. Furthermore, the River Center will gladly work with landowners who wish to use land within the buffer zone. Riparian natural vegetation is essential if we are to have healthy anadromous fish populations in the future. I was a fisheries biologist for thirty years, half of which was in the "lower 48", and I have seen first-hand what the lack of healthy riparian vegetation can do. We have been entrusted with the protection of our environment - let's not let future residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough down.

Dick Marshall
37186 Cannery Road
Kenai, AK 99611

Turner, Michele

2015-14

Subject: FW: KPB Ordinance 2015-14

From: Michele Hartline <hartlines@hotmail.com>
Date: June 7, 2015 at 4:42:45 PM AKDT
To: "jblankenship@kpb.us" <jblankenship@kpb.us>
Subject: KPB Ordinance 2015-14

Johni,
Please distribute this to each of the Assembly members.
Thank you,
Michele

Assembly Members:

Please vote YES on KPB 2015-14.

This is a private property rights issue - not a fish issue. Check in point - our lake front property rights were taken from us through the argument that property owners hurt the fish by using their 50 feet of shoreline. This emotional argument is made under the deception of "saving the fish". But wait - the fish that inhabit our lakes - the red and silver salmon - are proving to have consistent prolific returns. Obviously, we waterfront property owners are actually doing the "right" things to ensure the fish are well cared for!

Please restore our property rights, vote YES on KPB 2015-14.

Thank you,

Michele Hartline

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Borough Clerk's Office
Kenai Peninsula Borough

June 5, 2015

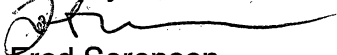
Assembly President

This statement is in response to the proposed Ordinance 2015-14. I am the landowner of a parcel on Otter Creek in the Grey Cliffs Subdivision.

The purpose of Ordinance 2015-14 appears to me to be an attempt to simplify the regulation of waters on the Peninsula to the main stems of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers and to remove from regulation the the watershed waters of those rivers and other "minor" waters of the Peninsula. Protecting the main stem of a river does not protect the various life stages of fish and other species and the environment of the water system itself. The main stem is often just a transportation route to the important habitat for the survival of the species. The other "minor" waters, such as Otter Creek, contribute to the overall species diversity and indirectly contribute to even the major water bodies such as the Kenai. Diversity is the key, not simplicity.

I feel that this Ordinance is extremely short sighted and shows an ignorance of sound biological and common sense, given we live in the 21st century not the 1800s.

Thank you,



Fred Sorensen
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