

# The LEGISLATIVE Link

A GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT FROM THE ALLIANCE

- ◆ Key legislation impacting the industry ◆ Alliance position statements ◆
- ◆ Alliance efforts on your behalf ◆

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**Date: Feb. 15., 2019**

## Legislation Alert

### SB 51

The (S) Resources Committee introduced [SB 51, Natl. Res. Water Nomination/Designation](#), proposing that any designation of a “Tier 3” Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW) be done only by the legislature, after nominations are approved by DEC, DNR, and ADF&G. For context, the designation of Tier 1, 2 & 3 for waterbodies (with Tier 3 being most strict) is [required by the EPA](#).

The Alliance is supportive of SB 51. The designation of Tier 3 waters has been used by anti-development groups as a tool to designate a waterbody for outstanding protection. Alaska does not currently have a system in place to designate Tier 3 waters.

Alaska and most states have no Tier 3 waters; they are extremely rare. There are currently 5 nominations in front of the DEC for the State of Alaska, including Kaktuli, Chikat, Draanjiik, and Yakutat Forelands nominations. All of these correspond to mining or mineral extraction projects.

SB 51 is a simplified version of prior legislation from 2016, but has been significantly simplified.

We will be sure to update as this bill moves through committee.

## Hearings of Interest

We are closely watching the budget, SB 20, as it moves through committee.

Next week, members of the Alliance Board will be in Juneau meeting with Legislators. We will continue to express our legislative priorities as well as our support for SB 51, should it move to committee hearings.



Although a Speaker has been elected, we await committee assignments to assess the full impact of the House organization on our membership.

**The LEGISLATIVE Link** | The Alaska Support industry Alliance

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