

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

323 E. 4TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

December 18, 1980

The Honorable Jay S. Hammond, Governor
State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, AK 99811

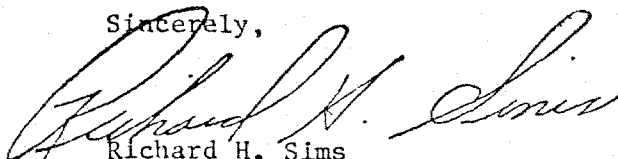
Dear Governor Hammond:

At our June 1980 meeting in Fairbanks, we heard testimony from representatives of the Division of Parks and the Department of Fish and Game on maintaining access at sportfishing sites on lakes and rivers. As you may recall, we sent you a letter informing you of this presentation with a request for action. You responded writing that we could expect to see the matter addressed in next year's budget. These letters are enclosed for your reference. At our most recent meeting, December 3-5, 1980, in Anchorage, while discussing the Department of Natural Resources' proposed budget for next year, we discovered that trash clean up at recreational sites is not included. When we asked why not, the reason appeared to be that new programs are difficult to get approved by all the necessary parties, although it is also possible that this particular problem was lost in the shuffle of the budget formation process. The Department of Environmental Conservation might be able to help through the Litter Control Bill, but it appears that while that legislation sets up a possible coordination mechanism, it does not provide funds for trash removal.

We are disappointed that funding for this problem has not been included in the coming year's budget. The trash problem will become worse as more people use our lakes, streams, and rivers for recreational purposes. The personal experiences of several of the Board members as they used these recreational areas after the June meeting attest to the seriousness of the problem. We can only reiterate our request of the earlier letter, that you direct the agencies to request funds to be able to meet the problem this summer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Sims
Chairman