

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, Governor

WATER RESOURCES BOARD

April 6, 1979

Commissioner Robert E. LeResche
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, Ak 99811

Re: Backlog of Water Rights Cases

Dear Commissioner LeResche:

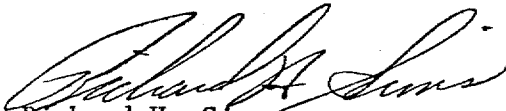
At our recently held Alaska State Water Resources Board meeting, the Board unanimously re-endorsed our resolution to advertise and promote the application for water rights for the following reasons:

1. We and DNR have an obligation to inform the public and protect their existing water rights. Even though this will increase the backlog, it will serve the most important point of giving the user a place in time (date of application) upon which to establish his right to water. We feel this step is imperative considering the land disposals and withdrawals (national parks, monuments, etc.).
2. By not promoting these applications and getting "all the cards on the table", we feel DNR will suffer a credibility problem with the legislature because one day there will again be a concerted drive to clear up this backlog. Obviously, if we fail to promote these applications, we will again fail to estimate the magnitude of the problem.

The Board feels very strongly about this obligation to the water users of the state.

Please let us know if there is anything you need clarified, or if we can help in any manner.

Very truly yours,


Richard H. Sims
Chairman

cc: Theodore G. Smith, Director
Division of Forest, Land and Water Management