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AVCP
Association of Village Council Presidents
Administration
Pouch 219, Bethel, AK 99559



February 21, 2013

RE: Letter of Support for **House Bill 49** that creates the ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), it is with great pleasure I provide a letter of support for the ALASKA CHINOOK SALMON RESEARCH AND RESTORATION ENDOWMENT FUND. AVCP is a Tribal consortium of 56 federally recognized tribes.

Chinook salmon is an important staple food for the Alaska Native people and others in Western Alaska. They are also an economically important species for a number of commercial fisheries and a prized sport fishing resource. Chinook salmon stocks are highly valued and essential to the basic way of life in Western Alaska.


Chinook salmon populations have suffered significant fluctuations in abundance during the past 40 years, yet little is known about the factors influencing their populations. Eight of the 14 currently listed "stocks of concern" are Chinook salmon stocks and there are no forecasts suggesting this trend is reversing anytime soon.

A decline in Chinook salmon causes severe hardship and anxiety for the salmon-dependent people in Western Alaska. Limited commercial fishing on Chinook salmon has occurred in recent years and earnings have declined significantly. Poor Chinook salmon returns produce tension and conflict between fishery user groups competing for the same fishery resource.

The bill creates a stable, long-term source of funding for high quality interdisciplinary research such as the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK SSI). AYK SSI Research results and information is being utilized in a wide variety of ways to support sustainable salmon management. It analyses escapement goals and helps to gain better an understanding of marine ecosystems. It helps to provide fisheries managers with better forecasts and improved responses to changing environmental conditions.

AVCP fully endorses the Alaska Chinook Salmon Research and Restoration Endowment Fund. I respectfully request your support of the bill when it comes before your legislative body.

Sincerely,


Myron P. Naneng, Sr.
President

Akiachak
Akiak
Alakanuk
Andreafsky
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Bill Moore's Sl.
Chefornak
Chevak
Chuathbaluk
Chuloonawick
Crooked Creek
Eek
Emmonak
Georgetown
Goodnews Bay
Hamilton
Hooper Bay
Lower Kalskag
Upper Kalskag
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kotlik
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lime Village
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mtn. Village
Napaimiut
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunakauyak
Nunam Iqua
Nunapitchuk
Ohogamiut
Oscarville
Paimiut
Pilot Station
Pitka's Point
Platinum
Quinhagak
Red Devil
Russian Mission
Scammon Bay
Sleetmute
St. Mary's
Stony River
Tuluksak
Tuntutuliak
Tununak
Umkumiut