



**FRIENDS OF
THE
ANCHORAGE
COASTAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE**

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The Honorable Representative Colver
The Honorable Representative Nageak
The Honorable Representative Talerico
The Honorable Representative Hawker
The Honorable Representative Herron
The Honorable Representative Johnson
The Honorable Representative Olson
The Honorable Representative Seaton
The Honorable Representative Josephson
The Honorable Representative Tarr

Subject: FAR's support of HB 153, adding Lands to Palmer Hay Flats Refuge

2015 March 27

Dear Representatives Nageak, Talerico, Hawker, Colver and All:

I write on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) to support House Bill 153 which adds conservation dedicated lands already owned by the State of Alaska to the Palmer Hay Flats Refuge. These lands were purchased without tapping legislative appropriations and to add these lands now to the refuge by amending the refuge boundaries in statute is the last step remaining to fulfill promises made to contributing partners, whose key members are The Nature Conservancy, The Great Land Trust, federal wetland grants, and Ducks Unlimited

We thank Representative Colver for working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop this bill and bring it forward and applaud the groups who helped previous owners realize their vision of these now public lands. These lands in State ownership with conservation covenants to ensure management for fish and wildlife and their public benefits help make Alaska the place we love to live, work, raise our families, and retire. It is important to include these lands into the system so that the State can ensure that they will be here for future generations to enjoy as intended.

Again, FAR supports HB 153, and we encourage you pass this bill completing the good work that has been done to provide these lands to enhance the beauty and integrity of the Palmer Hay Flats State Refuge for fish, wildlife, and their public benefits.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Švarný Carlson

Barbara Carlson
President and Executive Director