



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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February 21, 2017

The Honorable Click Bishop
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of Governor Bill Walker, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respectfully requests SB 61 "An Act relating to the Izembek State Game Refuge, Cape Newenham State Game Refuge, Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, Port Moller Critical Habitat Area, Egegik Critical Habitat Area, Pilot Point Critical Habitat Area, Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area, Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area, and Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area; and providing for an effective date," be scheduled for a hearing in the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee at your earliest convenience.

The purpose of this legislation is to: 1) correct boundary description errors and properly describe areas intended for habitat protection, 2) eliminate the confusing patchwork of land status within these refuges and critical habitat areas, 3) create contiguous, inclusive boundaries that better reflect the original intent of the designations, and 4) remove lands inadvertently included in critical habitat areas that were not appropriate for habitat protections, and eliminate permitting requirements for such lands.

In accordance with your hearing request requirements, we are submitting the following enclosures for your review:

1. Sponsor Statement: Governor Bill Walker's transmittal letter
2. Most recent version of the bill: SB 61 Version A
3. Sectional analysis
4. All fiscal notes
5. ADF&G letter of support
6. Letters of support
7. Additional documentation

Additionally, please accept this as our request for specialized Information Services equipment. ADF&G will require a projector and the use of or connectivity for a laptop during the hearing. Please note that at this time we are not expecting any off-net callers. Invited testimony will be

contingent on the hearing date. This information will be provided upon request or when the hearing is scheduled.

Administration personnel assigned to SB 61 include:

- Morgan Foss, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Commissioner
 - (907)465-6137, morgan.foss@alaska.gov
- Bruce Dale, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation
 - (907)861-2101, bruce.dale@alaska.gov
- Tony Kavalok, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation
 - (907)861-2103, tony.kavalok@alaska.gov
- Tammy Massie, Habitat Biologist III, Division of Habitat
 - (907)267-2122, tammy.massie@alaska.gov

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated. If you need any additional information, please contact Morgan Foss, Legislative Liaison, at (907)465-6137 or morgan.foss@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Cotten", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

cc: Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

Enclosures