



Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (Nay'dini'aa Na')

April 7, 2017

Gary Harrison,
Traditional Chief

Doug Wade,
Chairman/Elder

Rick Harrison,
Vice-Chairman

Penny Westing,
Secretary/Elder

Albert Harrison,
Treasurer/Elder

Shawna Larson,
Member

Kari Shaginoff,
Member

Lisa Wade,
Member

Gary Hay,
Executive Director

Representative Stutes

representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov

reid.harris@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 199: Changing State Law to Protect our Salmon and Lifeways

Dear Representative Stutes,

Thank you Representative Stutes for introducing HB 199. Chickaloon Native Village is a federally-recognized Ahtna Athabascan Tribe in southcentral Alaska governed by the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC). We are writing to express our support for HB 199.

Since time immemorial our people have depended upon salmon as a fundamental part of our social, cultural, economic and spiritual wellbeing. Access to sustainable, healthy resources for our families and our people is crucial to preserving our lifeways and we have made it a priority to protect our hunting and fishing resources for our people. There are multiple threats to critical salmon spawning and rearing habitats in Alaska and protection of these critical locations is necessary to ensure healthy salmon populations continue into the future. HB 199 will help to ensure protection for critical salmon spawning and rearing habitats.

Alaska's Fish Habitat Permitting Law (Title 16) does protect salmon spawning and rearing grounds enough, due to weak and ambiguous language. The current law needs to be updated and HB 199 will update the laws to provide clear scientific and enforceable standards for ADF&G to identify important habitat characteristics, like water quality, in-stream flow levels, fish passage, and riparian areas that need to be maintained to protect and support the sustainability of Alaska's salmon. HB 199 gives Alaskans a much needed voice in the permitting process, where Title 16 does not currently mandate public input and involvement. HB 199 creates commonsense standards for mitigation that a developer must meet to protect wild salmon before a project can move forward and be permitted.

Without wild salmon our well-being, economic security and food sovereignty are threatened. Thank you for your support of HB 199!

May Creator Guide Our Footsteps,

Doug Wade
Chairman