

March 31, 2017

Dear Fisheries Committee Members,

I'm very much in support of HB199. My family came to Alaska in 1959, and salmon has always been important to us. We grew up as children playing and fishing on the Russian River, our catch making up a big part of our diet throughout the year. As an adult I've lived and worked on the Yukon River and on Kachemak Bay where salmon has continued to be a mainstay of my family's diet. I believe that our wild salmon is one of the world's premier foods. Salmon are a true blessing to all Alaskan's who rely on them for food and for livelihood. We are the last state in the nation with healthy and abundant runs of wild salmon, and their protection should be very high priority.

I believe that Alaska must act now to protect the future of our state's precious salmon resources in perpetuity. With the ongoing weakening of national environmental regulations, our salmon fisheries are certain to be increasingly threatened by development pressures which are adverse to the health of salmon habitats. The provisions in HB199, which expand the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's authority to regulate and enforce protection of salmon habitat through the permitting process, and its provisions for Alaskan input on habitat protection are essential.

For health, for livelihood, for tradition, for lifestyle, so many Alaskans depend on maintaining the vibrant health of our salmon runs and salmon habitats. I urge you to support HB 199 for the future of Alaska's fisheries!

Sincerely,

Ann Agosti-Hackett

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