

Members of the committee,

The ADF&G Goals:

- *Optimize economic benefits from fish and wildlife resources.*
- *Optimize public participation in fish and wildlife pursuits.*
- *Increase public knowledge and confidence that wild populations of fish and wildlife are responsibly managed.*

Thank you for taking the time to fully assess the need of reforming the ADF&G Fish Habitat Permitting process. I would like to briefly share my perspective and recommend an approval of House Bill 199. I was born and raised in Anchorage, recently graduated in 2016 with a degree in Civil Engineering from UAF, and am working as an Engineer in Training with a small, native owned, civil firm in Anchorage. I also serve on the board of the Anchorage Waterways Council. Since my career commencement, I have researched and filled out multiple infrastructural development permits (including a Fish Habitat Permit) for projects in both urban and rural settings. My own personal and work life are affected by your decision today but, more importantly, so is the fate of many future generations.

As an engineer, I am ethically obligated to the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Because of this, the work that I perform with my coworkers (Alaska-licensed Professional Engineers) requires a regulation agency committed to protection and conservation of our Alaska land. We are focused on providing sustainable solutions to our people and need to trust that the State's agencies hold their ethical obligations to the same standards while working parallel with one another. Approval of House Bill 199 will provide this needed assurance that you and the ADF&G committee are fully committed to the preservation of our resources.

Amending Title 16 and reforming the permitting procedure would ensure that infrastructure projects that put our environment at tremendous risk, such as the Susitna Dam and Chuitna Mine, do not pass through the planning and permitting phase. These projects were both shut down primarily due to economic infeasibilities. If private funding had been readily available, I fear that the permitting process would not have properly served as its necessary stop-or-go measure.

House Bill 199 helps ADF&G serve its mission and above-stated goals by providing clear definitions of healthy rivers and mitigation standards for a vital at-risk resource: anadromous fish. The bill provides greater access for public participation and communication. Most importantly, this bill provides the time and place for a much needed reassessment on the effectiveness of the current Title 16. I hope that you choose to amend Title 16 to properly reflect the mission and standards of my state. Please take the time to reevaluate your role to the state.

***Thank You,
Sophia Tidler***

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