



Council of  
**Alaska Producers**

**Comments on HB199:  
FISH/WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION; PERMITS**

April 10, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes  
Chair, House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB199 "An Act establishing general fish and wildlife permits and major and minor anadromous fish habitat permits for certain activities; establishing related penalties; and relating to the protection of fish and game and fish and game habitat."

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. Bringing together mining companies with interest in Alaska, the Council represents and informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

CAP opposes HB199 because it would shut down responsible resource development projects across the state, jeopardize the continuation or expansion of existing operations, delay and add costs to road construction and other state infrastructure projects, and it would inhibit community development. The real fiscal impact of this bill would be staggering.

HB199 is the wrong solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska already has a world class permitting system that is based on science and applied consistently. This bill creates a new permitting program that is more stringent than the applicable federal laws without giving any reason why the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act are deemed insufficient to protect fish habitat and wildlife in Alaska.

HB 199 cannot be fixed. Please recognize that the current, rigorous permitting system works and do not move this bill any further. Doing otherwise would endanger Alaska jobs as well as threaten any expansion of our state's limited transportation infrastructure. It would also restrict opportunities for Alaska communities to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias  
Executive Director