



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

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January 12, 2018

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Madame Chair Giessel:

On behalf of Governor Bill Walker, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respectfully requests HB 130 "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 Senate Resources 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. HB 130 Sponsor Statement
2. HB 130 Sectional Analysis
3. HB 130 Version A (current bill version)
4. Current fiscal notes:
 - a. ADF&G – Division of Wildlife Conservation
 - b. ADF&G – Division of Habitat
5. Letters of support
 - a. Alaska Waterfowl Association
 - b. Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats
 - c. Aleutians East Borough
 - d. Friends of Glacier Bay

- e. Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park
- f. Kachemak Bay Water Trail
- g. Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
- h. The Nature Conservancy
- 6. Additional documents
 - a. ADF&G Maps of Special Areas Boundary Changes
 - b. Gustavus City Council Resolution regarding Dude Creek

The department would appreciate the use of Information Services equipment for the purpose of displaying maps of boundary changes:

- Laptop connectivity for ADF&G laptop
- A projector and screen for map presentation

Administration personnel assigned to HB 130 include:

- Morgan Foss, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Commissioner
 - o (907) 465-6137, morgan.foss@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 horizontal line extending from the end.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

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

Enclosures