



April 4, 2018

**RE: Protecting habitat protects Alaska business; support reforms to fish and game habitat permit laws.**

Dear Alaska decision makers and voters,

As Alaskan business owners, anglers and hunters, we depend on robust populations of fish and game to feed our families, pay our employees, and help give visitors and residents alike the sporting experiences Alaska is well known for delivering. Maintaining our wild salmon runs and abundant wildlife populations will ensure Alaskan businesses, our lucrative recreational fishing and hunting industry and Alaskan lifestyle continue to thrive. We support efforts to update our laws and regulations to safeguard important habitat, and we urge our elected officials and fellow Alaskans to do the same.

Healthy ecosystems and abundant fish and wildlife populations bring tourists from around the world to fish, hunt and view wildlife, creating more than 43,000 jobs and contributing \$4.8 billion annually to Alaska's economy. The sport-fishing industry in Alaska supports more than 1,150 businesses, licenses nearly 2,500 Alaskan-resident fishing guides, and hosts more than 450,000 participants annually. Our businesses play an important and growing part of our state economy and help buoy Alaska during turbulent economic times by providing a diverse and resilient economic base. Clarifying our laws and regulations for protecting fish and wildlife habitat isn't just the right choice for natural resources, but it is the right choice for our economy and for the long-term interests of Alaska.

Reforming our fish and game laws and regulations will create predictability and the confidence to know that when a permit is issued to develop in important fish and game habitat, the development will occur in a way that protects the natural resources that form the foundation of our businesses. These protections will allow us to continue to invest with confidence.

Alaska is at a crossroads. A look at formerly resource-abundant states in the Lower 48, now depleted or devoid of wild salmon, makes clear what Alaskans must expect if we fail to implement strong protections for our fish and wildlife habitat. This threat compels us to support measures that will

safeguard our abundant fish and game resources while allowing truly responsible projects to move forward.

Therefore, the undersigned businesses and organizations support strengthening the laws and regulations that guide development in fish and game habitat and encourage Alaska lawmakers and voters to also support such measures. Our laws and regulations must do more to protect habitat, promote responsible development through decisions that are based on clear scientific standards, and ensure Alaskans have a voice in decisions impacting the future of our salmon streams and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

Nelli Williams  
Alaska Director, Trout Unlimited  
Anchorage, AK  
[nwilliams@tu.org](mailto:nwilliams@tu.org)

David Lisi, Owner  
Cooper Landing Fishing Guide LLC  
Cooper Landing, AK  
[Cooperlandingfishingguide@gmail.com](mailto:Cooperlandingfishingguide@gmail.com)

Jason Rockvam, Owner  
Wilderness Place Lodge  
Anchorage, AK  
[Wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com](mailto:Wildernessplacelodge@gmail.com)

Mike Brown, Owner  
Mossy's Fly Shop  
Anchorage, AK  
[mbrown@mossysflyshop.com](mailto:mbrown@mossysflyshop.com)

Karl Schultz, President  
Southcentral Alaska Trout Unlimited Chapter  
Anchorage, AK  
[alaskatuchapter@gmail.com](mailto:alaskatuchapter@gmail.com)

Kevin Maier, President  
Juneau Alaska Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Juneau, AK  
[info@tujuneau.org](mailto:info@tujuneau.org)

Jason Lesmeister, Owner  
Jason's Guide Service  
Cooper Landing, AK  
[lesmeisterjason@gmail.com](mailto:lesmeisterjason@gmail.com)

Richard Jameson, Owner  
Alaska Internet Marketing, Inc  
Anchorage, AK  
[Richard@alaskaoutdoors.com](mailto:Richard@alaskaoutdoors.com)

Christopher Tobias, Owner  
Roe Hard Guide Service LLC  
Wasilla, AK  
[chris@roehard.com](mailto:chris@roehard.com)

Dave Bachrach, Owner  
Alaska Adventures, Inc  
Homer, AK  
[Goseebears@gmail.com](mailto:Goseebears@gmail.com)

Brad Kirr, Owner  
Alaska Kenai Fishing For Fun  
Palmer, AK  
[akkenaifishingforfun@gmail.com](mailto:akkenaifishingforfun@gmail.com)

Dave Atcheson, Board Member  
Kenai Peninsula Trout Unlimited Chapter  
Kenai, AK  
[Kptroutunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:Kptroutunlimited@gmail.com)

Kayla Roys, Marketing Manager  
Alaska Fly Fishing Goods  
Juneau, AK  
[Kayla@alaskaflyfishinggoods.com](mailto:Kayla@alaskaflyfishinggoods.com)

Lee Kuepper, Owner  
Double Haul Fly Fishing  
Sterling, AK  
[Lee.kuepper@gmail.com](mailto:Lee.kuepper@gmail.com)

Brian Kaferstein, Co-owner & Guide  
Keen Eye Anglers  
Seward, AK  
[brian@keeneyeanglers.com](mailto:brian@keeneyeanglers.com)

Dave Lisi, President/Director  
Peninsula Rivers Conservancy  
Kenai Peninsula, AK  
[Cooperlandingfishingguide@gmail.com](mailto:Cooperlandingfishingguide@gmail.com)

Ed Schmitt, Chairman  
Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition  
Soldotna, AK  
[Schmitt.edward@gmail.com](mailto:Schmitt.edward@gmail.com)

Travis & Lori Price, Owners  
Fish Em LLC  
Cooper Landing, AK  
[Travis@fishem.net](mailto:Travis@fishem.net), [Lori@fishem.net](mailto:Lori@fishem.net)

Heidi Wild, Owner  
Wild on the Fly  
Wasilla, AK  
[Wildontheflyak@gmail.com](mailto:Wildontheflyak@gmail.com)

Heather Kelly, Owner  
Heather's Choice  
Anchorage, AK  
[Heather@heatherschoice.com](mailto:Heather@heatherschoice.com)

Zack Walters, Owner  
Alaska Clear Water Sportfishing  
Cooper Landing, AK  
[Zwa55@hotmail.com](mailto:Zwa55@hotmail.com)