

Jill Weitz  
1505 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Douglas, AK 99824

Thank you, Madam Chair, House committee members, Senate members, and other representatives. I would also like to give thanks to those that have given expert and heartfelt testimony this morning and those yet to come.

My name is Jill Weitz and I have been a contributing member to the Juneau community for the last decade. I initially came to Juneau to complete a term of National Service with AmeriCorps. I earned a graduate degree in environmental law and policy. Four days following my graduation from the University of Denver, I moved back to Juneau because I was certain I wanted to apply my education to help protect and maintain the thriving communities of Southeast Alaska.

I served as a Compliance and Enforcement Officer for ADEC's Division of Water for three years and was provided an incredible opportunity to travel and work within many facets of the industries that fuel our state. I followed a natural transition back to the non-profit world and have worked as the campaign manager for the Salmon Beyond Borders for nearly three years. I provide you with this background as a preface to illustrate my personal perspective.

While working on this campaign, amongst many things, I have had the honor to work with and travel to British Columbia with Alaska Tribal leaders and citizens, commercial fishing leaders, business owners, and Lt. Governor Mallott. In British Columbia, we were invited to visit First Nations communities built along the Fraser River that were directly impacted (and unable to continue a subsistence lifestyle) by the Mount Polley disaster during the summer of 2014. Additionally, I have met with multiple State Commissioners, Federal Agency Program Directors, US/Canadian Consulate Officers, First Nations leaders, State Department Representatives, The United States Ambassador, Parliamentary leaders, Ministers of BC, Assistant Deputy Ministers of BC, our Congressional Delegation and their staffers...and their staffers...just to name a few. It has been a busy few of years – I know you can relate.

Although I am incredibly grateful for Lt. Governor Mallott and his genuine interest and concern for the transboundary issue, the State of Alaska must do more to secure international protections for our watersheds and communities. The aforementioned meetings with leaders, though valuable, are still not pushing the dials. The Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 was created to resolve international disputes regarding shared water bodies. It must be enforced, and the State of Alaska must be part of the push along with our Congressional Delegation to advance the treaty process.

In Southeast Alaska alone, following community meetings and an incredible amount of hard work by many people in this region, 12 municipalities, 15 of 19 federally recognized tribes, our Congressional Delegation, Commercial and

Sportfishing gear groups, and more than 7,000 Alaskans have united and submitted letters and resolutions calling for federal action to advance this issue at the international level, and in most cases, a specific referral to the International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty.

With the support from our Congressional delegation and constituents, now is the time to engage the US Federal government in the name of our greatest resource - salmon – that are the economy and lifeblood of this incredible region. A “Memorandum of Understanding” with BC does not give Alaskans enforceable protections for our resources. I ask that as a legislative body, focused on our state fisheries, you do everything within your power to push the Legislature and our administration to demand meaningful action from our federal government to address this issue.

With sincere thanks for your time and attention,

Jill Weitz  
Douglas, Alaska  
907.957.9504