

Elijah Verhagen

From: Bruce Cain <bcain@ahtna.net>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Elijah Verhagen
Subject: Fwd: Letter of Support for HB 107

Elijah, please forward this email to the committee. From Mentasta council.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Letter of Support for HB 107
From: taddy sanford <tedsanford83@yahoo.com>
To: Bruce Cain <bcain@ahtna.net>
CC:

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

On Fri, Feb 24, 2017 at 3:13 PM, Bruce Cain
<bcain@ahtna.would be gre

representative.david.talerico@akleg.gov

Elijah.Verhagen@akleg.gov

content://media/external/file/63991

Representative Talerico:

Mentasta Lake Traditional Council writes to you in support of HB 107. We support the intent of this bill to enhance salmon populations in a natural way. Our Village is located at the headwaters of the Copper River. Our river system enjoys healthy salmon runs in part due to a similar sockeye enhancement program that has operated for years on the Upper Gulkana. We have a similar location at Mentasta Lake which would be ideal for incubation boxes with the water source and habitat to support it. Also our part of the river would greatly benefit from such a program, as we are upstream from the fish that return to the Gulkana. Permits for such a program are difficult if not impossible to obtain. This bill would allow our village, supporting organization and school to collect, fertilize and hatch eggs and release the fry. We are very interested in the long term health and strength of our salmon populations. Our elders traditional knowledge and documented western reports show clearly that we had much stronger runs of salmon prior to statehood. Commercial fishing, and an ever growing in river personal use and

subsistence fishery have taken their toll on returns to our Village. This system of incubation would help restore our runs. This would benefit to our community, other villages along the river and other fishing groups as well.

We strongly support HB 107. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely:

Mentasta Lake Traditional Council

Ted Sanford, First Chief