



The Honorable Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801
Phone: 907-465-2487

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Subject: Support for House Bill 199

Dear Representative Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

I own and run Alaska Alpine Adventures, one of the many Alaskan owned, family operated businesses critically contributing to the state's economy. This summer will mark our 18th year in operation, taking Alaskans and visitors on guided trips around the state from the Brooks Range to Bristol Bay. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than sharing the diverse opportunities of Alaska with residents and visitors alike. We truly live in a unique and special state, teeming with mountain ranges, long free flowing rivers, and healthy, strong, and vibrant salmon runs.

Having worked in the outdoor travel industry, I have kept my eye close to the opportunities to protect our heritage and future, especially salmon. As I have watched and engaged the long winding battle to protect Bristol Bay over the past decade, I have long believed that Alaska's salmon resources need clear, protective measures at the state level.

I was delighted, then, to read that you had introduced House Bill 199. This is a powerful step forward to create those lasting and clear standards on the state level that can help Alaskans protect Alaska's renewable resources.

As the state's fish habitat permitting laws have not been updated since statehood, HB 199 provides simple, yet critical updates that ensure that not only can the Alaska Department of Fish and Game truly stand up for our fisheries, but that Alaskans have a clear opportunity to comment and engage in the permitting process.

What I love about the Stand for Salmon bill is that it seeks to protect Alaskan opportunities to do Alaskan things - namely rely on salmon in the many ways we do. The notion of doing Alaskan things while celebrating the majesty and bounty of this incredible place is precisely what draws 2+ million people to Alaska each year. Simple changes to existing law will assure that the cultural, ecological, recreational, and subsistence opportunities we so enjoy continue to be nourished by salmon.

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Sincerely,

Dan

Dan Oberlatz
Owner – Alaska Alpine Adventures, LLC

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