



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

via email: Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov
cc: reid.harris@akleg.gov

RE: Support for HB 199

Dear Representative Stutes:

With over 1,750 members, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak represents the largest Native community in the western Gulf of Alaska. We are very concerned about natural resources that helped sustain our ancestors, and now for the people of today, who continue to rely on the same resources for economic support, sustenance, and cultural identity.

Salmon and other fish and wildlife helped build Alaska, and are still indicators of the healthy ecosystems found here. With this in mind, we are pleased to provide our letter to you, in support of the "Stand for Salmon Bill" (House Bill 199) which proposes important changes to Alaska's fish habitat permitting laws. Most importantly, House Bill 199 ensures that Alaskans will have a voice in decisions that could impact the future of our wild salmon.

There has been a need to update Alaska's fish habitat laws. For example, with the loss of Alaska's coastal zone management program in 2011, our State has been slow to replace some of the important elements of that program with new or updated standards which help sustain our fish and wildlife. Alaska's fish habitat laws under Title 16 gave the Department of Fish and Game its authority to issue permits for projects that might impact fish habitat, but it lacked specific criteria that defined acceptable levels of development activity within Alaska's anadromous fish habitat.

House Bill 199 will give Alaskans a new voice on decisions impacting our salmon rivers, and if passed, could finally set clear standards for protection of our foundation fish species.

Please accept this letter of support for House Bill 199.

Sincerely,

Frank Peterson, Jr.
Tribal Chair
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

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