



April 7, 2017

Alaska House of Representatives  
House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

submitted via electronic mail

RE: House Bill 199

Dear Chair Stutes and Members of the Special House Committee on Fisheries,

On behalf of The Kuskokwim Corporation, please accept the following comments regarding our opposition to House Bill 199. Your consideration of our unique position is appreciated.

The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) was formed on April 25, 1977, when the following Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA) village corporations located along the middle part of the Kuskokwim River merged: Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Georgetown, Crooked Creek, Lower Kalskag, Napaimute, Red Devil, Sleetmute, Stony River and Upper Kalskag. TKC is the largest village corporation within the Calista region, and the surface estate owner of more than 950,000 acres of land on the middle Kuskokwim River. Our more than 3800 shareholders are connected not only by the River, but also by our culture, land and values. Our corporation values our land and resources, additionally we are committed to being good stewards for our future generations. Often, being a good steward means finding a balanced approach for development and use of our natural resources.

House Bill 199 appears to be an effort to fix something, which is not currently broken. The permitting process as outlined in Title 16 is efficient, allows for public comment and provides a sensible approach to for the Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and staff to evaluate permit applications with adequate consideration of fish habitat.

The overreaching regulation and processes proposed in House Bill 199 will not only have a detrimental impact on proposed economic activities in the Middle Kuskokwim region, but may have negative impacts on our much need community infrastructure projects along the Kuskokwim River and its seasonal tributaries.

TKC's Shareholders know better than anyone how vital salmon runs are for the health and well-being of our communities, but so is the opportunity for responsible development. Rural Alaska needs both economic activity and community infrastructure. We respectfully request that you do not create an undue burden for improving the viability of our communities.

Thank you in advance for consideration of our interests in maintaining the current permitting process and protection of fish habitat defined in Title 16 and opposing House Bill 199. If you have any questions regarding our comments contact TKC's Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Andrea Gusty, in our Anchorage office at [ajb@kuskokwim.com](mailto:ajb@kuskokwim.com) or call 1(800)478-2171.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maver Carey', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Maver Carey, President/CEO  
THE KUSKOKWIM CORPORATION

CC: HB 199 Sponsor Rep. Josephson