



Representative Stutes
State Capital Room 102
Juneau AK 99801
Representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov

Re: Letter of Support of House Bill 199, Fish/Wildlife Habitat Protection Permits

Dear Representative Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Susitna River Coalition (SRC). SRC supports updates to Title 16 that will strengthen protections for our fish and game and valuable water resources.

The Susitna River Coalition is based in Talkeetna, Alaska and has a broad membership of over 23,000 individuals, groups, and businesses. SRC works to protect the sustainable natural resources of the Susitna River Watershed and advocates for the protection and integrity of the healthy communities it sustains. Our members are dependent on the \$200 million dollars annually generated through tourism and recreation in the Susitna Watershed and support updates to our laws that ensure vibrant salmon runs and pristine habitat long into the future.

SRC supports HB 199. We understand the need for clean water, healthy salmon runs, and high-quality habitat. We also recognize the need to use our snow machines and four wheelers, and to support small-scale, community-driven development. It is time to update Title 16 to reflect the intent of our state constitution and ensure that our laws and regulations meet the high standards needed to protect our resources. SRC believes this is a proactive bill that will strengthen habitat protections and guide responsible development decisions as our population continues to grow.

SRC is grateful to Representative Stutes for advocating on behalf of Alaskans who depend on the robust salmon runs and healthy habitat that support our livelihoods, provide food for our families and protect our fisheries that nurture our communities. We welcome the opportunity to assist in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Heuer

Melissa Heuer
Executive Director
Susitna River Coalition
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