



CALISTA CORPORATION  
www.calistacorp.com

April 13, 2017

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

Re: House Bill 199

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

On behalf of the Calista Corporation, please accept the following comments regarding our opposition to House Bill 199.

Calista Corporation is an Alaska Native regional corporation established under the Alaska Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The Calista Region includes 45 village corporations in 56 villages in southwest Alaska. Calista's enrolled 13,300 original shareholders and is currently enrolling descendants of original shareholders who are expected to double Calista's shareholder rolls.

Many of Calista's rural residents depend on subsistence resources, including both anadromous fish and resident fish. We are mindful of the importance of fishery resources to our shareholders and their families, but we are also acutely aware of the significant percentage of our region's people who live below the National poverty level and without energy and transportation infrastructure present in other areas of the State. Our communities need airport upgrades, village roads, water and sewer projects and the ability to grow. Our residents need jobs and business opportunities that resource development brings to rural Alaska.

Calista believes that the Title 16 permitting process works well to protect fish habitat and does not need to be fixed. Title 16 allows for public comment and ADF&G evaluation of permit applications. Changes to Title 16 will require additional effort and time to apply for and obtain, and more State agency time to review permits. Calista is also concerned that HB 199 presumes every stream in Alaska is anadromous, a reversal of current policy without basis in good science.

HP 199 will seriously impact Calista's efforts to bring economic and community development to Calista region, a region without access to and opportunity to benefit from Alaska's road, railroad and electrical intertie systems that are available to residents living in other parts of the state. We ask that Calista region and other parts of rural Alaska that are struggling economically not be hindered in their efforts to facilitate community and economic development by an excessive and unwarranted permitting process.

Sincerely,

CALISTA CORPORATION

Andrew Guy  
President & CEO

Cc: Representative Josephson