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REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

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House Bill 14 – Legislative Approval for Bristol Bay Sulfide Mine

The purpose of House Bill 14 is to add additional requirements to Ballot Measure 4 (2014) which acted to prevent large-scale metallic sulfide mining in Bristol Bay without legislative approval. HB 14 mandates that in order for the legislature to grant such approval it must first find that an applicant has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that there is no danger to the fisheries within the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve.

Article 11 of the Alaska Constitution sets forth the voter initiative mechanism for creating law and section 6 prohibits changes to a voter initiative within two years of its passage. This two year period has passed and now is the time to make substantive changes to further protect flora and fauna of the Bristol Bay Region. Not only does this area contain the largest sockeye salmon run in the world, it is also the home to protected species like the beluga whale and the Steller sea lion. It is the locus of a diverse array of ecosystems and should be protected for generations to come.

House Bill 14 sets a stringent requirement on legislative approval: proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the highest standard in the law, that there is no danger to fisheries in the region, an important commercial, subsistence, and recreational resource for the state. I humbly ask for your support in protecting this invaluable region in Alaska and its living natural resources.

If you have any questions or would like to begin a document on this proposed legislation, please contact my office at 465-4939.

January-April: State Capitol, Room 102 • Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 465-4939 • (800) 465-4939

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