



August 22, 2018

**RE: Protecting habitat protects Alaska business; support reforms to fish and game habitat permit laws.**

Dear Alaska decision makers and voters,

As Alaskan business owners, anglers and hunters, we depend on robust populations of fish and game, and healthy habitat to support those populations, to feed our families, pay our employees, and help give visitors and residents alike the sporting experiences they've come to expect in Alaska.

Maintaining our wild salmon runs and abundant wildlife populations will help ensure Alaskan businesses, our lucrative recreational fishing and hunting industry, and Alaskan lifestyle continue to

thrive. We support efforts to update our laws and regulations to safeguard important habitat, and we urge our elected officials and fellow Alaskans to do the same.

Healthy ecosystems and abundant fish and wildlife populations bring tourists from around the world to fish, hunt and view wildlife. These activities create more than 43,000 jobs and contribute \$4.8 billion annually to Alaska's economy. The sport-fishing industry in Alaska annually supports more than 1,150 businesses, licenses nearly 2,500 Alaska-resident fishing guides, and hosts more than 450,000 participants. Our businesses play an important and growing part of our state economy and help buoy Alaska during turbulent economic times by providing a diverse and resilient economic base.

Strengthening our laws and regulations for protecting fish and wildlife habitat isn't just the right choice for natural resources, but it is the right choice for our economy and for the long-term interests of Alaska.

Reforming our fish and game laws and regulations will create predictability. It will give Alaskans the confidence to know that projects permitted in important fish and game habitat will only be developed in a way that protects the natural resources that are the foundation for our businesses. These protections will allow us to continue to invest and grow our businesses with confidence.

Alaska is at a crossroads. As has been demonstrated time after time throughout the Pacific Northwest where habitat degradation played a key role in diminished wild salmon runs, if we fail to adequately protect Alaska's unique and irreplaceable salmon habitat we will suffer the same fate and Alaska's abundant salmon runs will become a thing of the past. We must act now to implement new measures to safeguard our abundant fish and game resources while allowing truly responsible projects to move forward.

Therefore, the undersigned businesses and organizations support strengthening the laws and regulations that guide development in salmon habitat and encourage voters to voice their support for salmon habitat protection at the ballot box this November. Our laws and regulations must do more to protect habitat, promote responsible development through science-based decision making, and ensure Alaskans have a voice in decisions impacting the future of our salmon streams and wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,

David Lisi, Owner  
Cooper Landing Fishing Guide LLC  
Cooper Landing, AK

Jason Rockvam, Owner  
Wilderness Place Lodge  
Anchorage, AK

Christopher Tobias, Owner  
Roe Hard Guide Service LLC  
Wasilla, AK

Dave Bachrach, Owner  
Alaska Adventures, Inc  
Homer, AK

Mike Brown, Owner  
Mossy's Fly Shop  
Anchorage, AK

Brad Kirr, Owner  
Alaska Kenai Fishing For Fun  
Palmer, AK

Karl Schultz, President  
Southcentral Alaska Trout Unlimited Chapter  
Anchorage, AK

Dave Atcheson, Board Member  
Kenai Peninsula Trout Unlimited Chapter  
Kenai, AK

Kevin Maier, President  
Juneau Alaska Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Juneau, AK

Kayla Roys, Marketing Manager  
Alaska Fly Fishing Goods  
Juneau, AK

Jason Lesmeister, Owner  
Jason's Guide Service  
Cooper Landing, AK

Lee Kuepper, Owner  
Double Haul Fly Fishing  
Sterling, AK

Richard Jameson, Owner  
Alaska Internet Marketing, Inc  
Anchorage, AK

Brian Kaferstein, Co-owner & Guide  
Keen Eye Anglers  
Seward, AK

Ed Schmitt, Chairman  
Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition  
Soldotna, AK

Dave Lisi, President/Director  
Peninsula Rivers Conservancy  
Kenai Peninsula, AK

Travis & Lori Price, Owners  
Fish Em LLC  
Cooper Landing, AK

Heather Kelly, Owner  
Heather's Choice  
Anchorage, AK

Heidi Wild, Owner  
Wild on the Fly  
Wasilla, AK

Zack Walters, Owner  
Alaska Clear Water Sportfishing  
Cooper Landing, AK

Daren & Tracy Erickson, Owners  
Enchanted Lake Lodge  
King Salmon, AK

John Hohl, Owner  
Alaska Fly Anglers  
Kodiak, AK

Dan Michels, Owner/Manager  
Crystal Creek Lodge  
King Salmon, AK

Martin Kviteng, Owner  
Alaska's Fishing Unlimited Inc  
Port Alsworth, AK

Phil Hilbruner & TJ Dawson  
Lakeview Outfitters  
Cooper Landing, AK

Michael Adams, Owner  
Alaska Angling Adventures, LLC  
Cooper Landing, AK

Richard Marshal  
Retired USFWS Biologist  
Kenai, AK

Charles Ash, Owner  
Wild Fly AK  
Anchorage, AK

Rus Schwausch, Owner  
EPIC Angling & Adventure, LLC  
Alaska Peninsula, Alaska

Sarah Fullhart, General Manager  
Bristol Bay Mission Lodge  
Aleknagik, AK

Josiah Brown, Owner & Guide  
Kenai River Trout Anglers  
Cooper Landing, AK

Pete Wedin, Owner & Operator  
Anchor Watch Vacation Rental  
Homer, AK

Michael Trotter, Owner & Guide  
Baranof Wilderness Lodge & Beyond Boundaries Expeditions  
Sitka, AK

Rebecca Bertke  
Chelatna Lake Lodge  
Anchorage, AK

Michael Wald, Owner  
Arctic Wild  
Fairbanks, AK

Dave Maternowski, Fishing Program Manager  
Alaska Wildland Adventures  
Cooper Landing, AK

Mike Overcast, Owner  
Tordrillo Mountain Lodge  
Anchorage, Alaska