



Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

We at SalmonState would like to thank you for holding a town hall last week. As you are well aware, wild salmon are synonymous with Alaska: strong and resilient but also dependent on certain things to keep them thriving; just like our state's human inhabitants. For wild salmon it's clean water, healthy habitat, and sound management. Alaska's people need those very same things.

We thank you for recognizing this and for taking a stand for Alaskans and Alaska communities by speaking out against the reckless dismantling of the federal support system so critical to all of us. We at SalmonState sometimes disagree with decisions made and carried out by the federal government and its employees. Issues such as NMFS inability to effectively deal with destructive bycatch of salmon, halibut, crab, black cod, herring and other species by trawlers are of deep concern to us and our supporters. In addition, the inability of the State Department to address the explosion of mining development in the Transboundary leaves us frustrated and searching for answers but like you, we believe reform of agencies should be done carefully and deliberately, not via the wrecking ball being swung by Elon Musk and DOGE.

As you heard in the field hearing you held for the Senate Committee of Indian Affairs in Bethel on November 10, 2023, and in numerous letters and calls to your office over the past several years, our Alaska communities and fisheries are being threatened in many ways including climate change, habitat loss, and federal fisheries management practices that allow waste and excessive harvest. These problems will undoubtedly grow more acute if agencies experience wholesale loss of personnel.

Your continued push for maintaining the integrity of important federal agencies and their invaluable public servants whose expertise and leadership are indispensable is greatly appreciated. A rational, reasonable approach to reform could result in positive change to federal management, lead to more efficient use of resources and better support of Alaska's communities and sustainable wild fisheries. We stand with you in forging that approach and will continue to push back against those not interested in changing the federal system so vital to Alaskans and Alaska but who are hell bent on destroying it.

Sincerely,

Tim Bristol
Executive Director
SalmonState