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RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development



AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation



ALASKA CHAMBER



the Alliance



October 16, 2017

The Honorable Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Appeal of ruling on Ballot Initiative 17FSH2

Dear Lieutenant Governor Mallott:

The undersigned broad coalition of entities, with very diverse interests, write regarding the ballot initiative titled "An Act providing for protection of wild salmon and fish and wildlife habitat" (Initiative 17FSH2).

Last month, with a thorough legal opinion from the Attorney General's (AG) office, you concluded this initiative was unconstitutional, a decision this coalition supported. Stand for Salmon, through Trustees for Alaska, appealed the State's denial of its application 17FSH2. On October 9th, Alaska Superior Court Judge Mark Rindner ruled against your decision for denial, a ruling this group does not agree with.

On that basis, this coalition urges you to appeal Judge Rindner's ruling and send a strong message that the State will vigorously defend the decision that this initiative is unconstitutional.

This coalition believes the initiative would be detrimental to responsible resource development, including Alaska Native interests, and efforts to build and maintain community infrastructure, among many other concerns. The measure will be particularly harmful on rural Alaska, and the people who live there.

As has been said before, the intent to safeguard Alaska's salmon fisheries is an objective we share and it is why we support Alaska's existing rigorous and science-based regulatory system. Shutting down economic and community development is a disproportionate response to a problem that doesn't exist.

As a coalition that includes urban and rural Alaskans, and businesses and associations representing tens of thousands of jobs for our state's citizens, we cannot overstate how important it is to have consistent regulatory and permitting processes.

This coalition knows community and resource development projects in Alaska can be and are done responsibly, with a strong focus on protecting the environment, cultural activities, and wildlife, while providing good-paying jobs, quality of life, and opportunities for people to remain in their communities.

Instead, this initiative would likely cause costly delays for community projects like airport expansions and village wastewater facility upgrades. It could ultimately halt even the smallest of projects. Further, the added

costs of the bill, while still unknown, will likely deepen our State's fiscal crisis. The added time to resource agencies, as well as permit applicants, would increase uncertainty and cost for development opportunities without a corresponding benefit to fish habitat.

Given the issues we have raised above, we implore you to appeal Judge Rindner's ruling as soon as possible, and demonstrate to Alaskans that the State will proactively protect the interests of those who will be adversely impacted by the initiative.

Sincerely,

Curtis Thayer, President & CEO
Alaska Chamber

Owen Graham, Executive Director
Alaska Forest Association

Deantha Crockett, Executive Director
Alaska Miners Association

Kara Moriarty, President & CEO
Alaska Oil and Gas Association

Rebecca Logan, General Manager
Alaska Support Industry Alliance

Aves Thompson, Executive Director
Alaska Trucking Association

Jeremy Price, State Director
Americans for Prosperity, Alaska

Bill Popp, President
Anchorage Economic Development Corp.

John MacKinnon, Executive Director
Associated General Contractors of Alaska

Andrew Guy, President & CEO
Calista Corporation

Sophie Minich, President & CEO
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Karen Matthias, Executive Director
Council of Alaska Producers

John Binkley, President
Cruise Lines International Association Alaska

Aaron Schutt, President & CEO
Doyon Limited

Neil MacKinnon, President
First Things First Alaska Foundation

Marisa Sharrah, President & CEO
Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

Crystal Nygard, CEO
Mat-Su Business Alliance

Marleanna Hall, Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor
Jahna Lindemuth, Attorney General
Elizabeth Bakalar, Assistant Attorney General
Commissioner Sam Cotten, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Andy Mack, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Larry Hartig, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation