



July 27, 2017

Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott
State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Anchorage, AK 99811

Dear Lt. Governor Mallott:

The Alaska Chamber is writing to express its continued opposition to the now revised petition application you received on July 14, 2017 for “an Act providing for the protection of wild salmon and fish and wildlife habitat” (17FSH2).

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large business representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans. We support responsible resource development that is both done in a responsible manner and brings economic opportunity to Alaska and its residents.

The objective to safeguard Alaska’s salmon fisheries is worthy. It 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.

The Chamber represents businesses in both urban and rural Alaska representing tens of thousands of jobs for Alaskans. We cannot overstate how important it is to have a consistent regulatory and permitting process. The current processes in place have insured for decades that community and resource development projects in Alaska are done responsibly with a strong focus on protecting the environment, cultural activities, and fish and wildlife. In certain cases, these responsibly developed projects provide good paying jobs, a higher quality of life, and opportunities for people to remain and work in their communities. Despite the changes made in 17FSH2 to the original initiative it would still cause costly delays for community projects like airport expansions and wastewater facility upgrades. It could ultimately halt even the smallest of projects.

The language contained in 17FSH2 still contains fundamentally flawed sections, and poses a grave threat to Alaska’s economy and its communities.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Thayer', is written over a horizontal line.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO