



612 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite B
P.O. Box 21989, Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 586-4351
www.seconference.org
Email info@seconference.org

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

October 17, 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:

Southeast Conference joins the broad coalition of entities who expressed grave concerns to you in a letter dated October 16, 2017, 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 we all 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 we do not agree with.

Southeast Conference 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 initiative could be extremely impactful 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 impactful on rural Alaska, and the people who live there.

We are particularly concerned with the process of how changes to Title 16 and fisheries habitat management are enacted. We believe in a rigorous public process that Alaskans can participate in during a legislative session. This initiative process denies Alaskans their right to due process and denies the legislature and Administration their rights and responsibilities mandated by the Alaska Constitution.

Given the issues raised above, Southeast Conference respectfully requests that you to appeal Judge Rindner's ruling as soon as possible, and demonstrate to Alaskans that the State will not abrogate its Constitutional obligations and protect the interests of all Alaskans adversely impacted by the initiative.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

J. Robert Venables
Executive Director
Southeast Conference

cc: The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor