

RC77



THE STATE of ALASKA

REPRESENTATIVE MARK NEUMAN

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Dear Alaska Board of Fisheries Chairman Johnstone, and Board Members Kluberton, Jensen, Johnson, Huntington, Jeffrey, and Morisky,

Thank you for your willingness to serve and the sacrifices you make on this very important resource management board.

Access to Salmon is an important issue for many of my constituents and residents of the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley. Historically, we have relied on this resource to fill freezers and provide sustenance. Culturally, families and friends have joined together in gathering this resource as part of a lifestyle. Over the years, many have moved to the Valley to pursue that lifestyle.

Many of my constituents, my peers, and I believe that northern district stocks are managed subservient to the central district commercial sockeye harvest, and have been for some time. We believe that redefining the mixed-stock fishery to allow for Susitna Basin escapement is essential. These stocks have been dangerously depressed for more than a life-cycle and before irreversible damage is done, action is needed to preserve them.

I also believe a more terminal harvest regime for the dominant Kenai and Kasilof sockeye runs is necessary.

Thank you,

Mark Neuman

Representative Mark Neuman

