

# Ballot Measure No. 1

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## An Act Providing for the Protection of Wild Salmon and Fish and Wildlife Habitat

### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

We are fortunate to live in one of the last strongholds of wild salmon in the world. Everywhere else salmon have occurred in Europe and North America, irresponsible development and human activity have wiped out or threatened those salmon populations. Alaska can avoid that same fate by **voting YES for Salmon.**

Alaska's wild salmon are critical to our state's economy, cultures and way of life. But as our state grows and the number and scale of development projects increase, irresponsible development will cause significant habitat destruction. **Unless we strengthen state laws, we could lose this irreplaceable resource that connects us all and defines who we are as Alaskans.** What does Alaska look like without our thriving and abundant wild salmon populations? This ballot initiative before you ensures we will never have to answer that question. **Please vote YES for Salmon.**

**Salmon fisheries provide jobs for over 30,000 Alaskans and generate almost \$2 billion in economic activity each year.** According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, salmon provide up to 61% of the protein in the diets of rural Alaskans. Yet the state law intended to protect wild salmon rivers and other habitat is now over sixty years old, has no legally enforceable standards to adequately protect salmon habitat from irresponsible development, and has no process for Alaskans to weigh in on projects that could harm salmon resources.

**The Yes for Salmon initiative would bring this outdated and ineffective law into the 21st Century** by creating a more transparent, responsible and balanced approach to large-scale development projects. It puts into place modern, science-based safety standards and common-sense accountability to protect Alaska jobs and help prevent major catastrophes that could wipe out huge portions of our state's wild salmon populations.

#### **Here is what voting Yes for Salmon would do:**

- Establish clear, enforceable standards for development around salmon streams, requiring things like adequate water in streams, fish passage, and good water quality that wild salmon need and preventing major projects from doing substantial long-term damage to salmon streams;
- Protect access for our subsistence, commercial and sport fishing activities;
- Ensure that Alaskans, for the first time, have a voice in the permitting process for major development projects that could harm salmon streams;
- Give Fish and Game authority over all salmon streams in Alaska;
- Ensure that responsible development projects move forward in a way that protects our wild salmon legacy.

#### **Alaska Stands for Salmon – Please vote YES for Salmon!**

Dr. Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Ph.D., Stand for Salmon  
Gayla Hoseth, Curyung Tribal Council (2<sup>nd</sup> Chief)  
Mike Wood, Susitna River Coalition (board president)