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**To:** [Sam Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Eklutna hydroelectric project  
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To whom it may concern:

This comment is regarding the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project's Draft Fish and Wildlife Program for the Eklutna River. I'd like to start by expressing my disappointment in the format of the public meetings. The meeting I attended in Anchorage began with a presentation by a contractor employed by the utilities, without opportunity for other perspectives or rebuttals. The public was isolated for their submission of testimony rather than being able to hear from one another. I fear that the format was deliberately designed to obscure the growing consensus that the restoration plan presented is at best insufficient, and at worst, unjust.

Regarding the mitigation plan, I'd like to express my passionate support for the community alternative – namely, complete dam removal, once other sources of renewable energy have been secured.

For years now, my utility, Chugach Electric Association has been painstakingly slow to add renewable energy to the grid. Now, it is using the loss of a small amount of renewable power – approximately 3% of its total production – and subsequent rate hikes as its rationale for this inadequate plan. Pitting salmon against renewable energy is a false choice. And no amount of money saved or costs avoided can justify perpetuating the shameful legacy of colonization.

Unlike the "AWWU portal" plan, the community alternative would create a continuous flow of water from the lake to the ocean, for the restoration of all five species of salmon, as well as for the fish to return to tributaries above the lake. We have a generous commitment from nonprofit groups to remove the dam so that the rate payers and tax payers will not have to bear the cost of dam removal. Most importantly, we have a historic opportunity to restore salmon and to right a wrong that the Eklutna people have born for generations. I sincerely hope the the powers that be come to their senses, so that we won't squander the rare opportunity to wrong the rights of the past and restore salmon, beloved by all Alaskan, to this river.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chantal de Alcuaz