From: <u>candicekotykllc@everyactioncustom.com</u> on behalf of <u>Candice Kotyk</u>

To: Sam Owen

Subject: Free the Eklutna River

Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 9:17:42 PM

Dear Operators of the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project,

Thank you for the opportunity of a public comment period on the draft Fish and Wildlife Plan proposed for the Eklutna River.

While I am not fully aware of our energy situation and all the details surrounding the future of our energy creation and consumption, I still strongly urge you to heed the recommendations of the Native Village of Eklutna to remove the dam and fully restore the Eklutna River. They feel strongly that removing the dam will restore the salmon to the river, and that the dam removal costs could be covered by two nonprofit organizations who have agreed to pay for it. I agree that at this point we should work to find other ways to create/harness energy, and make the choice that returns the river to it's natural state before the dams were built.

Damming rivers has rarely been the right choice for local people. There are many examples of this from around the world, throughout history. By restoring the wild salmon run, you would be righting a historic wrong on the Eklutna River.

Sincerely, Candice Kotyk

Sincerely, Candice Kotyk Anchorage, AK 99516-2865 candicekotykllc@gmail.com