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To: [Sam Owen](mailto:Sam.Owen)
Cc: president@mlccak.org
Subject: Eklutna Hydroelectric Project: Draft Fish and Wildlife Program
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**RE Alaska's Constitution Requires a Balanced Solution
Ref# Eklutna Hydroelectric Project: Draft Fish and Wildlife Program**

To all concerned,

I support the solution outlined in Eklutna Hydroelectric Project - Draft Fish and Wildlife Program in Section 5 on page 76: **Summary of Draft Fish and Wildlife Program and Rationale**

At a recent public meeting the discussion became polarized by the binary choice of leaving the Eklutna Dam untouched or removal of the dam to restore the original habitat.

Alaska's constitution requires a balanced solution so that the needs of the public's resources for power, water, and fish habitat are met.

Currently dams are being removed in the lower 48. But that will not necessarily improve salmon reproductivity. A major component of the impact on the salmon population is increased predation in Alaskan waters and bycatch.

The loss of salmon habitat due the construction of the Eklutna dam was a mistake not in keeping with Alaska's constitutional requirement of balanced resource management.

On page 76, Section 5: Summary of Draft Fish and Wildlife Program and Rationale, appears to be a balanced solution to the problem for the following reasons.

- The lake is recharged every spring by the glaciers. Climate fluctuations could result in reduced lake capacity for one or more seasons.
- Fish passage to Eklutna Lake will not necessarily provide an increase in spawning area. Salmon can only spawn in a lake if there is sufficient upwelling.
- Most renewable energy is not a viable solution to replace the dam. Solar and wind require a way to store energy, so that supply to the grid is consistent. Solar is becoming more efficient, but there is still the problem of Alaska's harsh weather and lack of light during the winter. Wind turbines are designed to shut down when it reaches 22 below.
- MEA must maintain its profit margins if it is going to develop a renewable energy source such as tidal.

The plan as outlined in Section 5 on page 76 has the best chance of success.

Restoring 11 miles of fish habit will also boost Alaska's recreational opportunities and economy.

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