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Subject: Eklutna Hydro Comments
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 9:00:15 PM

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A COMMENT. I NORMALLY BITE MY TONGUE, BUT CONSIDERING EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ALL LEVELS, I AM HOPING TO HELP PREVENT US FROM MAKING A MISTAKE WE WILL REGRET.

AS A COUNTRY, THERE IS AN ATTACK ON FOSSIL FUELS, WHICH WILL ONLY MAKE IT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO LIVE SAFELY, ESPECIALLY IN OUR ENVIRONMENT. ACROSS THE WORLD, TRILLIONS ARE BEING SPENT TO CHASE CLEAN ENERGY, WITH HYDRO BEING ONE OF THE BEST. WE HAVE THAT HERE, AND SHOULD BE LOOKING TO ADD MORE HYDROPOWER, NOT TO MOVE TO OTHER ENERGY SOURCES NOT AS RELIABLE. (MY MS WAS IN PHYSICS, WITH MY FAVORITE COURSES BEING IN NATURAL ENERGY.) EVEN IN A STATE THAT HAS MORE NG THAN IMAGINABLE, OUR GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ALMOST HAD US RUNNING OUT OF FUEL THIS YEAR, AND WE CURRENTLY DON'T HAVE A GOOD SOLUTION GOING FORWARD FOR NG. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT REMOVING THE BEST SOURCE OF ENERGY WE COULD HAVE? WE NEED TO NOT ONLY KEEP THIS, BUT WE ALSO NEED TO LOOK FOR MORE HYDRO OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS A LAKE TAP HYDRO PLANT SUCH AS THE ONE IN USE IN JUNEAU. THIS IS THE BEST AND SAFEST SOURCE OF ENERGY.

PROCESS FOLLOWED TO BUILD OUR HYDRO PLANT WERE IN PLACE TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT, TO CREATE THE LEDPA SOLUTION, AND I KNOW THEY WERE EXCRUCIATINGLY FOLLOWED.

SALMON ISSUES ARE AFFECTING ALL RIVERS IN OUR STATE, SOME GREATER THAN OTHERS. I FISH THROUGHOUT ALASKA AND FOLLOW COUNTS, AND BESIDES SHIP CREEK, EKLUTNA IS ONE OF THE BEST FISHERIES BY FAR, AND IT CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AS OTHERS STRUGGLE. COULD THIS POSSIBLY BE BECAUSE THE PLANT IS ON THAT RIVER AND THE WORK DONE TO ENSURE THE SALMON WERE NOT IMPACTED ACTUALLY DID MORE TO SUSTAIN THE RUN THAN HURT THE RUN? TWISTING DATA TO SHOW EKLUTNA BEING IMPACTED FROM THE HYDRO PLANT CAN BE EASILY DONE, SOMETIMES NOT EVEN REALIZING ONE HAS SKEWED DATA THAT YOUR HEART AND SOUL THINK IS CORRECT, BUT IN THIS CASE, EKLUTNA HAS FAIRED BETTER THAN MOST RIVERS.

I WAS BLESSED TO WORK AT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR 5 YEARS WITH SOME OF THE ABSOLUTE BEST AMERICANS DEDICATED TO FOLLOWING THE LAW. I UNDERSTAND THE DUE DILIGENCE THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED. EVEN WHEN IT IS FOLLOWED AS REQUIRED AND THE LEDPA IS CHOSEN, THERE ARE MULTIPLE CASES BROUGHT AGAINST THE DECISION FOLLOWED BY APPEALS RESULTING IN THE VERY, VERY LEAST ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE.

REMINDS ME OF OUR PIPELINE, WHERE ONE OF THE COMPLAINTS WAS THE IMPACT ON THE CARIBOU, BUT THE PIPELINE RESULTED IN A PLACE FOR THE CARIBOU TO GATHER FOR THE HEAT OR THE OCCASIONAL BACK SCRATCH NOT AVAILABLE ANYWHERE ELSE ON THE SLOPE. MANY SAY THE CARIBOU ACTUALLY SEEM TO CONGREGATE NEAR THE PIPELINE. ANOTH EXAMPLE IS THE MULTIPLE CASES BROUGHT AGAINST A CORPS DECISION TO ADD BREAKERS TO JUNEAU HARBOR AS A

TEMPORARY MEASURE TO PROTECT THE HARBOR. THERE WAS COMPLAINT AFTER COMPLAINT THE WILDLIFE WOULD SUFFER, AND ALL OF THEIR STUDIES SHOWED THIS. AFTER AN EXTENDED BATTLE WHILE THE HARBOR SUFFERED, THE CORPS WAS EVENTUALLY ALLOWED TO INSTALL THE FLOATING BARRIERS. RECENTLY THE PLANS WERE COMPLETED TO ADD THE PERMANENT BREAKWATERS AND REMOVE THE TEMPORARY BARRIERS, BUT NOW THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS DON'T WANT US TO REMOVE THE FLOATING BARRIERS AS THE WILDLIFE LOVES THEM...ACCORDING TO THEIR DATA.

I ASK WE NOT ONLY KEEP THE EKLUTNA HYDROPLANT, BUT WE ALSO LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ADD MORE HYDRO POWER TO OUR SYSTEM.

BOBBY STONE