Good afternoon Chair Wood and members of the Board

My name is Francis Estalilla… author of Proposal 83… I look forward to discussing its merits with you individually today, as well as during the committee process.

Rebuilding… to me… means putting more large kings on the gravel to consistently achieve the OEG… **your OEG**!

And we're not talking about just barely scraping the escapement floor here… but rather seeing a full suite of escapements within the FULL range of that OEG. That means NOT killing large kings before you know how the run is performing in real-time.

Harvest restraint is key to any rebuilding plan, and Proposal 83 prescriptively sets the stage for just that kind of restraint. Mr. Delaney testified yesterday that managing this run is like turning a dial. The problem I see is that the dial is typically only used after the fact… once we figure out that kings are in trouble. Well … we all know that kings are in trouble for the foreseeable future. Why not start fully dialed down and cautiously "dial up" only when we are certain there are enough fish around to conduct fisheries?

Maintaining the current level of king impact… or worse yet…purposely increasing that impact… should be considered a NO GO! Fishing at escapements below the OEG floor, or worse yet, reducing the OEG itself **will** surely kill more kings. Such proposals should be REJECTED outright.

My other BIG objective here is hen conservation. Diminished stock productivity due to MASSIVE FECUNDITY LOSS is undeniable. It may well explain why the four most recent broods have failed to replace themselves. Over my 50-year fishing career on the Kenai, it looks something like this…

4-ocean hens were once the reproductive backbone of the run. A typical late run used to be 60,000… half of them were females… and two thirds of those were 4-ocean egg wagons packing an average of 12,000 eggs apiece. Do the math and you get **240 million eggs!**

Now let's compare that to recent runs of only 13,000 where only 21% of them are 4-ocean hens. The fish are also now smaller, carrying fewer eggs... let's say 11,000, perhaps even fewer. Do the math and you get only **30 million eggs TOPS!**

That's an astounding 88% reduction in fecundity just on the 4-ocean age class alone! **No huevos, no pollo!** It's no wonder this run can't get off the ground!

More than ever, BIG hens matter. Short of NO FISHING, **moving the threshold to retain large kings to the OEG ceiling** is the surest way to accomplish this objective without increasing the escapement goal.

In 2017, the Board had the wisdom to conserve females in the early run with **no retention of large kings unless the escapement exceeds the OEG ceiling**. The late run has never been afforded this most basic of protections. ***Now is THAT time!***

Thanks for your attention… I'd be happy to answer any questions

92% of hens are larger than 34". Conserving large fish essentially means conserving the overwhelming majority of hens.

Putting 34" at the top of the OEG essentially means a C&R fishery on large kings unless the OEG ceiling is exceeded.

Mr. Beamesderfer testified yesterday about ZERO yield coming from escapements below 18-20K … and the need for precautionary discipline in allocating kings surplus to the escapement floor …**NOT just to harvest** but reserve some for the spawning gravel.