FEBRUARY 1, 2014

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

RE: PUBLIC TESTIMONY

My name is John Jolly and I am representing myself. I would like to thank you all for allowing the public and me to speak on this matter. I would also like to thank Robert Begich for always being available and taking the time to talk with me about the Kenai Peninsula Fisheries.

Just to give you a little background about me, I am a late comer and have only been in AK since 1979. My Family and I have Commercial Fished and some members of my family still do. Today I am an avid Sports Fisherman and am particularly fond of the Middle Kenai River.

I am sure you have heard a lot of different ideas and reasons for the cause of the current situation in Cook Inlet and all its Tributaries. I know we cannot fix what is done but we can fix it for the future. Again, I am sure you have heard many different ideas about how to do just that. Whatever the Board decides as a plan of action must be shared equally.

I feel that all the users groups of Cook Inlet and its Tributaries should share an equal part in the solution. No one group should be given preferential treatment as it appears has happened in the past. Simply put, when the King Run is in trouble, stop everyone from fishing for them. That includes everyone, Commercial Fisherman, Dip Netters, Guides and Sports Fisherman. When the runs are in trouble until you reach the required escapement, there can be no special openings for Commercial Fisherman, Dip Netters should not be allowed to continue as they catch a large number of Kings and there cannot be special concessions made for the Guides to continue fishing.

We are all aware of the effects on the local economy when restrictions are placed on the Kenai King Fishery and other tributaries; however that should not ever play a part in the solution to restore these runs. It would appear that the good of the local economy has been a consideration based on some decisions made in the past. There will be no future local economy if we continue as we are now.

I support a solution that is shared equally by all the user groups and it will hurt some of us more than others in the near future. We cannot continue as we have in the past and must act today to save these runs for our future.

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Thank you for hearing my comments today. I can be reached at any of the following:

John Jolly 4641 Sandy Beach Dr. Anchorage, AK. 99502 johnj@wwmiak.com (907) 243-6470 Home (907) 349-2581 Work (907) 830-8298 Cell

Best Regards,

John Jolly