

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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December 4, 2009

Mr. Kim Elton, Director, Alaska Affairs
Office of the Secretary
US Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Secretarial Review of Alaska Federal Subsistence Program

Dear Mr. Elton:

On October 23, 2009, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior initiated a review of the federal subsistence management program in Alaska. On November 12, 2009, a website was made available for the submission of comments. At several recent meetings, Mr. Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs for Department of the Interior, reportedly requested that comments be submitted by December 18, while a November 24 progress report (posted on the website) asked for comments prior to the Christmas holidays. During your original announcement of this review, you indicated that substantial results would be available that would affect the conduct of the next meeting of the Federal Subsistence Board (i.e., January 12, 2010).

Given the significance of this review to many Alaskans, we believe that providing little more than a month before the holidays is not sufficient.

We request that the deadline for comments be extended to provide more time for Alaskans to participate. Also, we believe that more time is needed to expand your agency's direct consultation with a broader base of affected individuals, organizations, and communities. Adequate opportunities for public input need to include more traditional and user-friendly processes for public involvement in subsistence issues, such as public meetings, rather than depending upon an internet site and ad hoc meetings as the vehicle for public comment by rural residents and other interested parties.

Specifically, please consider extending the comment period through February 2010 and consider including full consultation with members of the Regional Advisory Councils and local fish and game advisory committees at their scheduled meetings.

The State of Alaska intends to participate fully in this review. In due course we may bring significant policy issues to the personal attention of both the Secretary of the Department of the

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Interior and the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Please consider establishing a second phase to your consultation approach, so that the public and State have an opportunity to evaluate consequences and comment on any specific changes contemplated by the Secretaries.

In closing, I urge that you extend the review process to provide sufficient time to conduct a systematic, documented evaluation of the federal subsistence program that assures direct consultation with the wide variety of stakeholders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Denby S. Lloyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denby" being the most prominent.

Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

cc: Mr. Pat Pourchot, Department of the Interior
Federal Subsistence Board
Alaska Board of Fisheries
Alaska Board of Game
John Katz, Office of the Governor