

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Brent Johnson, Assembly President BJ

DATE: November 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution 2022-057, Supporting Privately Owned Boat Take-Outs on the Lower Kasilof River (Johnson)

Alaska State Parks purchased the Old Kasilof Landing from Jim Trujillo in 2015, planning to open a drift boat take-out in the location where Trujillo previously operated his boat take-out. Residents in that neighborhood unanimously oppose those plans.

Meanwhile, Steve and Jeanne Maltby have operated a boat take-out a couple miles farther downriver since buying it in 2004. They charge \$30 per take-out, welcome any user, and have an excellent safety record ("perfect safety record," Jeanne Maltby told me). Safety is important because someone was killed a dozen years ago taking a boat out of the lower Kasilof River. That happened at a place where drift boat users rigged up an unprofessional boat take-out device.

If Alaska State Parks opens a boat take-out at the Old Kasilof Landing, three things are certain: (1) Maltby's business will suffer; (2) Residents of Coal Creek Country Estates Subdivision will also suffer; and (3) the State of Alaska will spend a considerable sum to build a good boat-take-out. It's my contention that the State should avoid competing with private enterprise and that these detriments aren't worth the benefits that lower Kasilof River boaters will receive from the proposed project.

Your consideration is appreciated.