

May 19, 2015

Assembly President, Dale Bagley, and members

Of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Re: Ordinance 2015-14

Dear President Bagley and Members,

I herewith ask you please not to introduce Ord. 2015-14. It is neither necessary, nor advisable.

Two years ago, this body spent a long time, and three public hearings, before passing Ord. 2013-18, and what establishing what is now KPB Chapter 21.18. More public hearings are not needed. The code is working.

Do you, as a public government, have a responsibility to the greater Alaska public to ensure that salmon runs will continue to be healthy, in all Peninsula streams? I think you do. Why do we live here? How many of us depend on that annual run to sustain us through the year? Unless we are willing to protect the natal streams and lakes that grow the spry, those runs will slowly disappear.

The Watershed Forum has done an excellent job of replacing culverts to support these young fish, and that has made a huge difference. But if the streams to which they go to grow are not protected, we will lose them. Fortunately, the Assembly in 2013 agreed, and established what are protected areas.

This all brings to mind a old saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." It ain't broke. It is working. Please leave it alone.

Please, do not introduce Ord. 2015-14. It is not needed. Our salmon and steelhead need the  
protections they now receive.

Thank you.

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