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CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

CANADA-U.S.
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

August 6, 2018

Tony Izzo
General Manager
Matanuska Electric Association
163 E. Industrial Way
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Mr. Izzo:

I write in reference to the efforts of Eklutna Inc. to restore the Eklutna River and critical King Salmon habitat. I appreciate your timely review and careful consideration of this letter and its contents contained herein.

As Congressman, I was closely involved in the sale and divestiture of the Eklutna Power Project to the three utilities that concluded in 1997. It was my expectation that the terms provided for in the sale, particularly in the Fish and Wildlife Agreement, would result in the timely restoration of the Eklutna River. One of the concerns raised at the time was the impact to salmon runs that resulted from the construction of dams and the diversion of water on the Eklutna River.

The Native Eklutna people have been greatly affected by all that has happened on the Eklutna River, beginning with the construction of the Lower Eklutna River dam by Frank Reed in 1929. While I remain a large proponent of hydro power and believe that hydro projects can coexist with healthy salmon habitats, this case is unique. As you are aware, there is plenty of excess water that can be released by MEA into the Eklutna River. This will allow for better salmon habitat and healthier King Salmon returns.

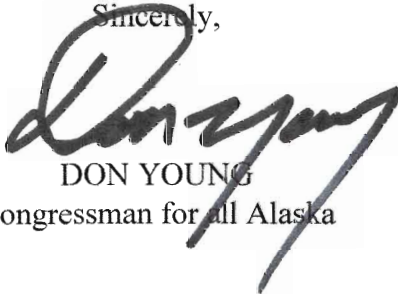
The Eklutna people are to be commended for tackling and completing the difficult task of removing the Lower Eklutna Dam. This spectacular high-profile project has captured popular attention and earned tremendous political and financial support. Eklutna Inc. stepped up with private funding and they deserve cooperation in their efforts to restore the Eklutna River.

With the removal of the lower Eklutna dam, salmon can now move upstream for the first time in 88 years. But the salmon need more water. With the lower dam removed it is now time to find ways to restore normal water flows to the Eklutna River.

I encourage you to begin this work. As someone who had a hand in the divestiture of the Eklutna Power Project, I am keenly interested in seeing the timely restoration of the Eklutna River and the recovery of the salmon for the benefit of the Native people of Eklutna. Restoring healthy salmon runs in the Eklutna River will benefit a great many Alaskans who live in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

If legislative efforts are needed to clarify or expedite this work, I stand ready to be of assistance. With warmest wishes and best regards, I remain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Young", written in a cursive style.

DON YOUNG
Congressman for all Alaska