April 18, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor, State of Alaska  
POB 110001  
Juneau, AK 99801  

SENT VIA EMAIL:  

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

We write to express our great concern that the efforts underway to conduct an upcoming salmon fishery in Bristol Bay seem fully intent on marginalizing local municipalities and in effect removing them from the decision-making process.

Absent a direct dialogue with the state on developing best practices, and in light of the rebuke of municipal authorities as evidenced in the Amended Attachment B to amendment 12, our municipalities are left with no choice but to remind all parties that it is the municipalities who have governing jurisdiction over important assets that are critical to the functioning of the fisheries in Bristol Bay.

We are also compelled to point out that the state’s processor plan process makes no provisions for municipal involvement during the review or approval process, which is highly troubling and frankly very concerning to us on behalf of our residents, who are greatly worried about the potential spread of the Covid 19 virus in the Bristol Bay region - many of whom who are direct descendants of family members who perished in the Spanish Flu of 1918. Neither does the process make provisions for enforcement or for testing prior to entering the region; for the processors or for the fleet.

Make no mistake, we want the economic benefit of a strong salmon fishery to take place this summer. However, we are being put in an uncompromising position of asking our local citizens to hold themselves to a higher standard of safety measures then the hordes of non-residents who are preparing to enter the region for the upcoming fishery.

This letter is to make it unequivocally clear that we are going to engage in whatever measures we deem necessary to provide the highest level of protection to the people who live in Bristol Bay.

In that regard, we respectfully ask for a meeting with you, Governor Dunleavy, to talk about processor plans/responsibilities, having in place appropriate enforcement measures, health care facilities and, very critically, the means for proper testing to be administered.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alice Ruby, Mayor  
City of Dillingham

Glen R. Alsworth, Sr. Mayor  
Lake and Peninsula Borough

Randal A. Hasting, Mayor  
City of New Stuyahok

Moses Toyukak, Mayor  
City of Manokotak
cc:
Mr. Ben Stevens
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Pacific Seafood Processors Association
Bristol Bay RSDA
Bristol Bay Task Force
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Representative Don Young