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Sept. 26, 2017

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**Broad range of Alaska organizations support the State's rejection  
of disastrous, anti-development ballot initiative**

Anchorage, AK –Organizations representing the ANCSA CEOs, and the oil and gas, mining, tourism, timber, construction, and fishing industries are speaking up in support of the Lieutenant Governor's rejection of an unconstitutional ballot initiative that seeks to illegally remove development decisions from the duly elected legislature.

According to members of the groups who filed official comments opposing the ballot measure, the "Stand for Salmon" ballot initiative would be a disaster not only for the rule of law, but for Alaskans who rely on existing infrastructure to maintain their current quality of life.

"This ballot measure seeks to elevate one of Alaska's many resources at great expense to the others," said Dave Cruz, president of Cruz Companies. "The sponsors of this initiative seem to think fish habitat cannot continue to thrive alongside our current oil fields, roads, treatment plants, mines, and other essential infrastructure. Decades of experience tell us otherwise. Crippling the industries that serve as the state's economic lifeblood and threatening future projects like Alaska LNG is short-sighted, and would be a disaster for Alaskans who value good-paying jobs and economic opportunity. In short, this ballot measure is a solution in search of a problem, and was rightly rejected as being unconstitutional."

The organizations supporting the Alaska Department of Law in its ruling made the following statements in their official comments on the proposed ballot measure:

From the Alaska Oil and Gas Association: "17FSH2 (the ballot measure) also would invariably be disastrous for Alaska. Seasonal, low-impact (oil and gas) activities...will likely be impossible to permit under 17FSHB2. Permanent, large-scale development projects, e.g. the Alaska LNG project...would be impossible to effectively permit under 17FSHB2."

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From the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Regional Association: “This initiative, if passed, will prevent us from developing the resources that we received under ANCSA, and destroy our ability to create a sustainable socioeconomic future for Alaska Native people.”

From the Association of General Contractors of Alaska: “...the proposed pro-salmon initiative and its counterpart in the Legislature – House Bill 199 –(will) impede economic benefits for those who aren't in the fishing business. We have excellent protections for salmon right now... ever since the state took over fisheries management after statehood, the resource itself has been doing very well.”

From the Alaska Miners Association: “17FSH2 remains a petition of unconstitutional provisions that will add unnecessary, unreasonable and likely impossible regulatory burdens on industries and community development projects that are already highly regulated and operate responsibly, with no added benefit to the environment or salmon habitat.”

Legal analysis conducted by the various groups found that the proposed ballot measure would lead to the following consequences:

- Prudhoe Bay (and indeed likely any other Alaska oilfields) would have been impossible to permit or construct if this initiative was in place during concept development or planning for oilfield startup, and, thus, the terms of the proposed ballot measure would put future energy projects in peril.
- Construction of airport runways, roads, wastewater treatment plants, and other critical infrastructure would become much more difficult, if not impossible, under the terms of the proposed ballot measure.

Organizations supportive of the Lieutenant Governor’s decision to reject the ballot measure include: Alaska Chamber; Alaska Miners Association; Alaska Oil and Gas Association; Alaska Support Industry Alliance; Resource Development Council; ANCSA Regional Association, and the Council of Alaska Producers, which has filed to intervene on behalf of the State of Alaska to the legal challenge initiated by the applicants.

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