

# STATE OF ALASKA

## CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS

*SEAN PARNELL, Governor*

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December 11, 2009

Mr. Kim Elton, Director, Alaska Affairs  
Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 "C" Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Departmental Review of Federal Subsistence Management Program

Dear Mr. Elton:

On December 1, 2009 the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas met with Pat Pourchot, DOI Special Assistant for Alaska, to discuss the departmental review of the federal subsistence management program. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss and share our thoughts about this important effort.

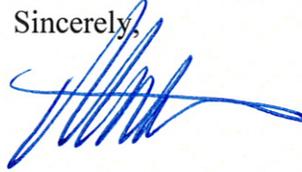
While the Commission found the meeting informative, the discussion emphasized the size and complexity of this undertaking. The Commission is extremely concerned about the quick pace of the review. We are particularly concerned about the short timeframe given to the public input and information gathering segment of the review. We understand that the public is being asked to submit comments by December 18, less than 60 days since the review was first announced. The Commission has heard from a number of individuals and organizations that more time is needed so that they can participate more effectively in the review.

The Commission strongly believes that more time needs to be spent soliciting input from the general public and talking to a wide spectrum of interested organizations, user groups and communities throughout the state. Additionally, DOI should schedule meetings with the Regional Advisory Councils, local fish and game advisory committees, National Park Subsistence Resource Commissions, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game. We are not convinced that the informal approach being taken is appropriate for the review of a program as large and complex as the Federal Subsistence Management Program.

This Commission requests that the deadline for public comments be extended for a minimum of 60 days. We are also requesting that the information gathering portion of this review be expanded to include public scoping meetings throughout the state. It is essential that your

department hear from as many Alaskans as possible before making any decisions on whether or how to proceed with changes to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. There is general acknowledgement that serious problems exist with this program. Given the importance of the fish and game resources of this state to all Alaskans, both urban and rural, no one's interests will be served by a hurried and incomplete review.

Sincerely,



Rick Schikora  
Chairman

Cc: Governor Sean Parnell  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Mark Begich  
Congressman Don Young  
Denby Lloyd- ADF&G  
Pat Pourchot – DOI