

Sample letter

Dear Commissioner Sullivan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chuit River Watershed Lands Unsuitable Petition.

I am an Alaskan who values our healthy wild salmon resources. I do not support the destruction of valuable salmon streams. Salmon is the lifeblood of many of our communities and many Alaskans rely on this resource for economic, subsistence, and recreational purposes. ***(Tell your story here).***

The State has the opportunity and the responsibility to protect this salmon stream from being destroyed by designating the water bodies and riparian areas within the Chuitna Watershed unsuitable for coal mining according to AS 27.21.260. We have rightly adopted rules that prevent other activities such as logging from taking place too close to streams and rivers, to protect them from being damaged, yet we have no laws to protect a stream from being destroyed by a coal mine?

If the State allows this stream to be destroyed, then which river is next? The Kenai? The Little Su? The Copper River? It is time for the State to set its priorities. We are not willing to sacrifice salmon for dirty coal and neither should our decision makers or any responsible resource developer.

Allowing a coal mining company to come in and destroy a resource forever for short-term gain is not responsible development and it is not what I want to leave for the next generation. Our children and grandchildren deserve a legacy of wild rivers and fish that we have been so fortunate to enjoy.

Please join with us in support of our salmon streams. Accept the Unsuitable Land Petition for the Chuitna watershed. Salmon streams are no place for a coal strip mine!

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your complete address