



Federal Subsistence Board

Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 – 6199



In Reply Refer To:
F26040

SEP 10 2026

Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
1849 C Street, Northwest
Washington, DC 20240

Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Rollins:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) respectfully requests the establishment of an annual standing meeting with you both to brief you on critical emerging and ongoing topics affecting federal subsistence hunting and fishing management in Alaska, seek guidance on issues identified by your appointees on the ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Councils), and ensure strategic alignment with EO 14153.

Pursuant to Section 805 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Councils are authorized to be a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations about management of subsistence fish and wildlife resources in their regions. Issues identified by the Councils directly affect the implementation of Title VIII of ANILCA and the federal subsistence priority.

The Board, established in 43 CFR 51 by the Secretary of the Interior in concurrence with the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries), has been delegated authority to carry out the statutory mandate of Title VIII, specifically by “administering the subsistence taking and uses of fish and wildlife on public lands and the related promulgation and signature authority for regulations.” The Board relies heavily on the advice and recommendations of the ten Councils in its decision making. Increasingly, the Councils are reporting persistent and serious problems such as declining salmon and caribou populations that are beyond the Board’s authority to take meaningful action. An annual meeting with the Secretaries’ offices could provide the Board

with more timely, coordinated, and actionable guidance and solutions to address these challenges.

The Board requests the first meeting include Council Chairs or their representatives and focus on the Alaska Salmon Crisis. Wild salmon are precious, and we must ensure we don't repeat the mistakes that led to their demise in the Atlantic. In 1903 at the Alaskan reception in Seattle, WA, President Theodore Roosevelt said, "Don't take all of the salmon out and go away and leave the empty river to your children and children's children." Meeting with the Board and the Council Chairs can provide a direct understanding of the crisis's impact on rural subsistence communities and help identify viable paths forward on this complex, multi-jurisdictional issue. Your engagement would offer essential leadership and direction as we work collectively to safeguard subsistence resources for future generations.

The Board thanks you both for your consideration of our request. We look forward to continued communication and to working together on our shared responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Anthony Christianson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" and last name "Christianson" clearly distinguishable.

Anthony Christianson
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Interagency Staff Committee
Office of Subsistence Management
Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils