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COMMISSION

**COUNTY OF DEL NORTE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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December 11, 2018

To: President Eric Sklar  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

**Re: Opposition to Listing the "UKTR" Spring Run Chinook as Endangered**

Dear President Sklar, Vice President Williams, and Members of the Fish and Game Commission

We are writing to you today in opposition to the proposed listing of the Upper Klamath-Trinity Rivers Basin ("UKTR") Spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawtscha*), as petitioned by the Karuk Tribe and Salmon River Restoration Council.

Recreational and commercial fishing is an economic lifeline for many members of our coastal communities, where the per capita median income is below state average. Del Norte County is no exception, and for decades has been at the forefront of State policy's and decisions to eliminate sport fisheries within our small communities further eroding Del Norte County's ability to provide for its businesses and residents. Guided recreational fishing and the tourism dollars that this fishery supports make meaningful and significant impacts to our local economy.

We estimate that the spring run fishery, from end of April to end of June, generates close to \$521,000 in revenue to our communities. A listing of the UKTR Spring Chinook would result in losses at local hospitality, restaurant, hotel and service sector industry, not to mention those in our community who operate as licensed full-time guides on our rivers.

Please recall that the previous listing petition made by the Center for Biological Diversity was determined "not warranted" by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2012. Although the more recent petition has been determined that it "may be warranted", the findings are narrowly related to two underlying causes; 1) disease and 2) regulatory mechanisms. Both are tangible, discrete findings that can be addressed to the benefit of future spring runs through proper management and policy decisions through working with many State, Tribal and Federal agencies that regulate multiple aspects of Klamath-Trinity River Health. Listing this species as not the best solution to resolving decades of mis-management while further eroding once viable and vibrant communities.

The job and economic losses we witnessed from fall Chinook fisheries closures in many past years should be enough evidence to warrant a solution that does not involve listing a species based on disease or regulatory mechanisms. Please do not place another listing on our County that impacts the one of the last economic drivers we have remaining, "tourism". Please do not disconnect yourselves as policy makers from the real day to day struggles that are centered in small counties like Del Norte County; these are real engines of our local economy. We ask that you consider our concerns, review the scientific evidence and seek out of the box approaches to dealing with a species that is impacted by issues that can be addressed through proper management. Del Norte County stand ready to engage in proper management, enforcement, and other additional measures including hatchery management, seasonal restrictions, and more focused efforts at a Federal and State level to insure an approach other than listing this species is avoided. Listing is not, and should not be, the only solution to these problems.

Del Norte County urges the Commission to seek other alternatives and not approve this petition when it is before the Commission for review and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Howard", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Howard  
Chair, Del Norte County Board of Supervisors