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FISHERMEN
— UNITED —

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March 13, 2025

Chair Rep. Louise Stutes
House Fisheries Special Committee
State Capitol Room 120
Juneau AK, 99801
House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

RE: Support HB 116 – Commercial Fishing Insurance Coop

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members:

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) is a multi-gear commercial fishermen's organization representing Prince William Sound harvesters. We represent more than 120 independent fishermen, and hundreds of crew, family and support businesses that rely on their operations.

We are writing to share our support for HB 116, exempting commercial fishing vessel cooperatives from Alaska insurance regulations.

Insurance costs have risen sharply for harvesters in recent years and represent an increasingly significant part of annual operating costs. The ability to work cooperatively with other fishing and seafood professionals in Alaska would provide much-needed options for responsible, effective, and affordable insurance. Fishing businesses are unique and often struggle to fit into the regulatory frameworks developed for other fields of work. This exemption allows this critical component of Alaska's economy and community traditions to engage in thoughtfully developing insurance frameworks that are fitting for our needs and the landscape in which we operate.

Sincerely,

Ezekiel Brown
Board President