

January 28, 2016

To the Members of the Alaska Legislature:

We are young fishermen from across Alaska. As fishermen, we are rooted in, dedicated to and reliant on the health of our coastal communities and marine ecosystems. And they rely on us — to be good providers and marine stewards.

Our generation faces many challenges to building successful fishing businesses. Some of these we accept as the fishing way of life, but other challenges are new and daunting: higher-than-ever costs to enter our fisheries, increasingly restrictive financing options, stock declines — and the continued outmigration of permits and quota from Alaska communities. These issues have compounding consequences: the loss of our economic self-sufficiency, professional development, food security, and heritage.

As leaders and policy makers you have the opportunity to consider concrete options for improving and protecting community access to local fisheries. It is imperative that Alaska develop long-term tools for anchoring fishing access in communities and in Alaska, an essential piece of the state's economic stability and community well being. Permit banks are one option, and a strong and practical mechanism to revitalize fishing communities. As the future leaders of Alaskan fisheries, we urge you to consider this and other viable tools for ensuring a strong fishing future for Alaska's coastal communities.

Despite the challenges we face, we continue to build our businesses. Fishing is integral to our livelihood and to Alaska's well being. Please help us to ensure that the next generation of Alaskans has access to Alaska's fisheries.

Sincerely,

Name: Elsa Sebastian
Hometown: Sitka
Fishery: SE Power Troll

Name: Hannah Heimbuch
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: Cook Inlet Drift, Gulf Longline

Name: Thomas Emerson
Hometown: Juneau
Fishery: Power - Troll

Name: Alec Schramek
Hometown: Petersburg
Fishery: Power troll / Cucumber Dive

Name: Iris Nash
Hometown: Juneau AK
Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Chris Nash
Hometown: Juneau AK
Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Kristy Crump
Hometown: Valdez, AK
Fishery: PWS purse seining

Name: David Fleming
Hometown: Anchorage AK
Fishery: ~~PWS~~ setnet

Name: Alexander Smith
Hometown: Alutqaq Ave
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Hunter Davis
Hometown: Juneau
Fishery: SE SEINE / CRAB

Name: Aaron Johnston
Hometown: Eagle River, AK
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Jared Oien
Hometown: Ketchikan, AK
Fishery: Southeast Salmon

Name: Sean Hawk
Hometown: Ketchikan
Fishery: Troll / LL

Name: Billy Hayden
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: Direct markets

Name: Steve Johnson
Hometown: Sitka / Wrangell
Fishery: Tender

Name: Patrick Lone
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: Tender / longline

Name: Darren Platt
Hometown: Kodiak
Fishery: Salmon, Herring

Name: Hugh Fleming
Hometown: Petersburg
Fishery: S.E. Seine / BB Drift

Name: Tori Connor
Hometown: Petersburg
Fishery: S.E. PWS Seim - Long Line
Setroll

Name: Melissa Nagamine
Hometown: Ketchikan
Fishery: SE Seine

Name: SOMMERS COLE
Hometown: JUNEAU, AK
Fishery: SE GILLNET

Name: Amanda Johnston
Hometown: Homer, AK
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Brant Widness
Hometown: Ketchikan, AK
Fishery: Troll / Dive

Name: Amy Schaub
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: SEINE / LONGLINE

Name: Margaret Borsch
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: gillnet and setnet Bristol Bay

Name: Jonah N. Yakunin
Hometown: Nikolaevsk, AK
Fishery: gillnet and longline

Name: Bernina Venue
Hometown: Dillingham, AK
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Gary Cline
Hometown: Dillingham, AK
Fishery: Bristol Bay Salmon

Name: Forest Sebastian
Hometown: PSG
Fishery: Troll

Name: Hayley Hoover
Hometown: Cordova AK
Fishery: Drift Gillnet

Name: Andrew Scudder
Hometown: Boise ID
Fishery: PWS Seine

Name: Melanie Brown
Hometown: Juneau AK
Fishery: Basket Bay Sockeye

Name: Michael Shaw
Hometown: Gwin Hills
Fishery: North Pacific Fishery

Name: Carina Nichols
Hometown: SITKA
Fishery: troll

Name: Darin Gilman
Hometown: Cordova AK
Fishery: PWS

Name: SOPHIE NETHERCUT
Hometown: SITKA
Fishery: Salmon troll

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