

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 Heimbach

Hometown: Homer

Fishery: Cook Inlet Dift, Gulf Longline

Name: Thomas Emerson

Hometown: Juneau

Fishery: Power - Troll

Name: Alec Schramek

Hometown: Petersburg

Fishery: Power troll/Cucumber Dift

Name: Iris Nash

Hometown: Juneau AK

Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Chris Nash

Hometown: Juneau AK

Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Kristy Cump
Hometown: Valdez, AK
Fishery: PWS purse seine

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

Name: Alexander Smith
Hometown: Aleknagik, AK
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: S. Tka / Wrangell
Fishery: TENDER

Name: Patrick Lane
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 Seine - Long line
setnet

Name: Mellyssa 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 Borsig
Hometown: Homer
Fishery: gillnet and setnet Bristol Bay

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

Name: Bernina Venuta
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: Alisanie Brown
Hometown: Juneau, AK
Fishery: Basel Bay Sockeye

Name: Mickey Sharp
Hometown: Gulf Hills
Fishery: North Pacific Fishery

Name: Carna Nichols
Hometown: SITKA
Fishery: troll

Name: Darin Gilman
Hometown: Cordova, AK
Fishery: PWS

Name: SOPHIE NETHERCUT
Hometown: SITKA
Fishery: Salmon troll

Name: _____
Hometown: _____
Fishery: _____

Name: _____
Hometown: _____
Fishery: _____