

RE: HB 125, Board of Fisheries Membership

I support in part HB 125. However, I REJECT the idea that AFN should be the nominating body for subsistence representatives. I suggest that the State Advisory Committees nominate names for the Subsistence seats.

1. **Advisory Committees have Specific Expertise:** Advisory committees are composed of individuals with expertise and experience in subsistence. This would ensure that the nominees have a deep understanding of the issues and can effectively represent the interests of the subsistence community.
2. **Direct Representation:** Advisory committees provide more direct representation of specific groups involved in subsistence. This would lead to more accurate and relevant nominations, as the committees are closer to the grassroots level and understand the unique challenges and needs of the community.
3. **Inclusivity:** Using advisory committees ensures that a wider range of voices and perspectives are considered. This can help avoid the potential for any single organization, like AFN, to dominate the nomination process and ensure that all relevant stakeholders have a say.
4. **Legal and Logical Framework:** From a legal and logical standpoint, advisory committees are legally established to provide specialized input and recommendations. Their legal role in submitting names aligns with their legal purpose and ensures that the process is grounded in expertise and direct community involvement.
5. **Remove the ability of the Governor to reject the nominations from the subsistence and scientific community list:** Allowing the governor to reject the list and request another can introduce political bias into the nomination process. The governor may favor nominees who align with their political agenda or interests, rather than those who are best suited to represent subsistence and science. This proposed provision will undermine the transparency of the nomination process. Without clear criteria for rejection and

resubmission, the process can become opaque, making it difficult to ensure that nominations are fair and unbiased. The ability to reject and request new lists can be used to manipulate the nomination process. This can lead to the exclusion of qualified candidates who may not align with the governor's political views, thereby compromising the integrity of representation at the Board of Fisheries. Since there is no similar provisions for the sport or commercial fishing lists, subsistence and science nominations are subject to additional scrutiny that can be politically motivated. This creates an unequal treatment of different interests, which can lead to biased representation. The proposed provision will create a perception of political bias in the nomination process and will erode trust within the community. If people believe that nominations are influenced by political agendas, it can diminish confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the representation.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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