

March 4, 2009

Representative Alan Austerman  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Legislature  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street Room 3  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Austerman,

I strongly support HJR 21. I am a twenty three year old fisherman from the Kodiak village of Port Lions. I have been fishing since I was eleven years old, starting with my dad, Harry (Fuzzy) Nelson. I have seined salmon and herring, longlined halibut and cod, pot fished and trawled. Last year I purchased an LLP and fished it with my dad's boat, the F/V Anna Lisa. I bought a boat of my own last summer and have been fishing hard as crew to help me with my start up costs. Currently, I am a crewman on the F/V Elizabeth F with Capt Stormy Stutes. Fishing is a way of life for me, but I don't want to spend my life as crewman. I need to be able to grow. But each time a new regulation or rule is created that gives away the resources of the Gulf of Alaska to the big players, it diminishes the opportunity I need to make a life for myself. The LLP I bought will be extinguished if the NPFMC takes its planned action at the April meeting. It does not have specified recency to qualify it for continued use under the NPFMC's preferred alternatives. Each new regulation closing off opportunity for people like me helps kill communities like Port Lions, Ouzinkie, Larsen Bay, and Old Harbor. We are Alaska. We live here. We need opportunities to fish. We are not asking for the ownership rights to the North Pacific, we are asking for a right to earn a living in our communities and to contribute to the employment opportunities for our neighbors.

Thank you for HJR 21, perhaps you can help keep the big money interests from extinguishing Alaska's coastal citizens' right to earn a living from the resources right outside our front doors.

Sincerely,

Michael Nelson