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10,000 years in our Traditional Homeland, Prince William Sound & The Copper River Delta

March 4, 2009

To:

Representative Alan Austerman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4956
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2652
Representative Jay Ramras	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2070
Representative Cathy Munoz	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2273
Representative Charisse Millett	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-2069
Representative Bryce Edgmon	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3445
Representative Paul Seaton	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3472
Representative Peggy Wilson	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3175
Representative John Harris	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-3799
Representative Mark Neuman	120 4 th St., Juneau, Alaska 99802	Fax 465-4822

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives: Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

The Native Village of Eyak strongly supports House Joint Resolution #21 that you have co-sponsored.

We are deeply concerned that current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal groundfish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

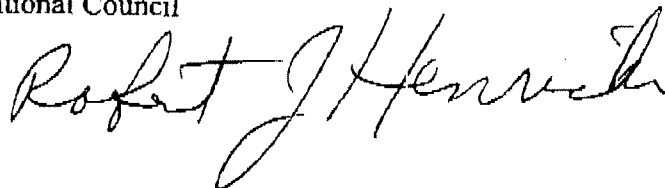
The life blood of our community and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it doesn't matter whether you call this rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal waters Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass this resolution and thereby make a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that this amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Henrichs
President
Traditional Council

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CC:

The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor

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