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F/V DAWN & F/V DUSK
 Kodiak, Alaska

March 9, 2009

To: House Fisheries Committee
 Re: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Committee Members:

I have lived in Alaska since Territorial days, 40 years of it here in Kodiak. I've fished Alaska waters for more than 50 years. I've also been involved in fish politics and am familiar with the process of fish management conducted by the Alaska Fish Board and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

Based on that I am opposed to HJR 21 and urge you to stop progress of the measure in the legislature.

I have two main reasons to oppose HJR 21.

- 1) It pits one group of Alaska fishermen against another group of Alaska fishermen.
- 2) It does that by injecting the legislature into the middle of fishery allocation issues that are best left to the NPFMC and the Fish Board.

The resolution seeks to stop the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) consideration of a recency amendment package regarding the Pacific cod fishery in the Gulf of Alaska.

The NPFMC's recency amendment package, is designed to protect those fishermen who have historically fished Pacific cod, while establishing a clear path for future entrants into the fisheries. The package is a result of the long process of public testimony, scientific input and many months of deliberation.

The package does not take anything away from anyone that has participated in the fixed gear Pacific cod fishery. Yet it allows new entrants to the fishery. The package is necessary because it prevents people from taking a fishery away from those who have traditionally fished—those who have made it possible to even have a successful cod fishery for the new-comers to enter.

I thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I trust that you will uphold the integrity of the resource management systems in place to take politics out of decisions that are best made by biologists and fish managers at the Council and Fish Board level.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Burch
 Owner

