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March 24, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon via email
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Bryce Edgmon:

I would like to fully support the passage of HB 117 which would require the Board of Fisheries to hold meeting's in particular regions of the state when the proposals on its agenda related to those areas. As previously noted in a letter submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries the Bristol Bay economy depends on the fisheries and decisions that affect the economy should provide for the greatest amount of local participation.

Having the opportunity to participate through attendance and testifying twice in the process while the meetings were held in Dillingham (Bristol Bay) has helped not just my family but our local residents to become aware of all the challenge's we face to keep going in the fishery both commercially and for subsistence use. Being able to testify on the impacts, the proposals and decisions made during this process and express first hand the affects this has on our livelihoods is essential in being able to continue to live in our region and the survival of our fisheries as we know it.

Sincerely,

/s/
Wassiliisia (DeeDee) Bennis
Dillingham