



Dear Senator Bunde

4-02-09

We cannot express our gratitude appropriately for your courage and fortitude for taking on this complex issue at this time. The Board of Fisheries and its attendant process has been a great example of public involvement and commitment to the residents of this great state and in general, we have always applauded and approved of this process.

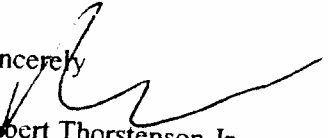
However, there needs to be a solid evaluation of the way we've been doing business on the Board of Fisheries. SB137 provides a mechanism for the ADFG Board of Fisheries to internally evaluate the effectiveness of the current lengths and durations of the Board of Fish cycle as well as the proposal process.

While we may have more definitive ideas as to how this process can be improved, certainly a cursory glance from within is the place to start. In recognizing this, you have put the interests of the fisheries resources as well as the process ahead of the squabbles between user groups.

Our interest in the Board of Fisheries process is in helping to improve a viable and working process, not in amending a broken process. While we have not and will not at this time lay out specific recommendations, we are very concerned about the future of this process and believe that your bill, SB137, provides the right vehicle to address these issues at this time.

If SB137 somehow runs off the track, we will be back in January with a more definitive approach. Your wisdom can be seen in this legislation in allowing the Board to proffer their own ideas and solutions prior to embarking on solutions of our own.

Sincerely


Robert Thorstenson Jr.
Executive Director, SEAS