

Timothy Clark

From: marking@gci.net on behalf of The Kings [marking@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 9:35 PM
To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Cc: Timothy Clark
Subject: HB 266

February 12, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 424
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 266 – Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon,

I am fifty-five years old and a life-long resident of Cordova, Alaska; my wife is a resident of Alaska for thirty-one years. We raised our three children here. I am also a fourth generation commercial fisherman and have spent my entire life fishing the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound. I am a tribal member of the Native Village of Eyak.

Our very lives depend upon the return of the salmon and it is of utmost importance to us that the resource remain healthy and strong. Cordova's main industry is and has been commercial fishing for the past hundred and thirty years. We believe that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has helped keep the salmon resource healthy through their management.

Almost the entire commercial fishing fleet in Cordova are residents of the State of Alaska, so HB 266 is dubious in nature. The salmon provide food for our families and paychecks to sustain our lives in this great land. Many times we've had to tighten the belt or seek a second and third job when a salmon season is weak, yet we've managed to get by. But if the intent of HB 266 is to further restrict commercial fishing, Cordova will suffer tremendous consequences. Do the supporters of this piece of legislation really want this? This could trigger many Cordova families moving into the Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks areas and taking jobs in already saturated markets, or even worse, leaving the State altogether.

Please see the implications of HB 266 in their entirety and act accordingly. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mark King
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