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House Resource Committee

To the Resource Committee-

My name is Derek Knudson. I am 24 years old and I work as a commercial fishing crew member in Petersburg. I am a native of the village of Kake. I grew up there, and would prefer to live there, but lack of economic opportunity there and a young family to fend for has made me relocate.

I support HJR 26, as originally written, to promote harvest and sales of whole, raw, pelts. As a commercial fisherman, I have long periods throughout the year I do not have a paycheck coming in. Harvesting otters would give me an opportunity to make a few bucks in the months I have nothing else going on, adding stability to my home life. I feel that the artisans opposed to this are watching out for their own pocket books, and are not speaking for all natives. To adjust this resolution to protect such a small part of the native population's business interests, would exclude me and others like me from the resource. I am a very good hunter, but my sewing skills suck.

Rural villages like Kake have very little opportunity for young people, even the young people who wish to live the village lifestyle. This would be a great resource for these villages, bring in much needed cash, and allow young families the opportunity to live in their home towns.

The last few years, many sea otters have moved into the Kake area. Already, we have seen the impact of them on our crab stocks. I think if I moved back, I would have some pretty good hunting.

Thank you,

Derek Knudsen

