

Feb. 13th 2012

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House Resource Committee

Dear Resource Committee;

My name is Jon Randrup. I am an Alaska native. I am 26 years old and make my living commercial fishing. I support HJR 26, calling for the federal government, native communities, and the State of Alaska to move forward with a management plan for sea otters. I support the original language that would allow sales of whole pelts.

Sea otter predation is effecting the Dungeness crab fishery, and the dive fisheries. Although I do not participate in these fisheries, many of my friends do, and I have heard the anecdotal evidence of areas being left economically nonviable after the otters move in. I have also seen the rapid population growth of the otters in the fisheries I am involved in, seeing more every year. They are obviously thriving.

Whole pelt sales would allow many more natives to participate in the harvesting of otters. I feel amendments limiting sales of raw pelts is exclusive and this resource should be inclusive, allowing as many natives as possible to benefit from the resource, not just a few with an established business model. It would also have the greatest quickest impact on otter populations in shell fish areas. I am not an artisan, nor do I want to be one. I am a fisherman and a native who would like to augment my fishing income with some off season hunting.

Thank you for the consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Jon Randrup

