



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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April 1, 2013

Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, 120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Email: Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 177 -- Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) represents 36 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations from fisheries throughout Alaska and its offshore federal waters.

UFA has long supported the State's Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund program (CFRLF), and we support HB 177. UFA supports the provisions of HB 177 that defines the lower threshold for interest rates in the CFRLF program to be not be less than three percent per year, while also restoring the Division of Economic Development's ability to offer incentives by differing interest rates for important loan programs to commercial fishermen for improving efficiency and product quality.

HB 177 also defines interest rates for Engine Fuel Efficiency and Product Quality Improvement loans. These are among the fund's most successful programs for making Alaskan fishing operations more efficient, profitable, and competitive. UFA supports making such financing available at two percentage points below the prime rate, with a three-percent floor in place. We appreciate the clarity that would be brought by HB 177 and consider 3% a reasonable lower threshold.

HB 177 clarifies and simplifies the Community Quota Entity Revolving Loan fund by making providing its own section of legislation separate from but consistent with provisions of the CFRLF.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julianne Curry
Executive Director

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

9369 North Douglas Highway

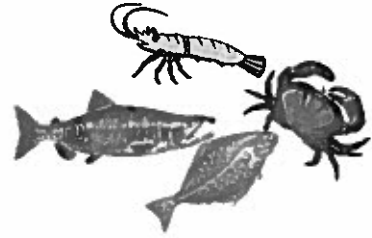
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February 4, 2014

Alaska State Legislature
House Fisheries Committee
Representative Paul Seaton, Chair
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Support HB 177

Representative Paul Seaton, Chair and Fisheries Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFa) is a multi-gear/multi-species membership based commercial fishing association. We represent our membership mainly involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska/Yakutat.

SEAFa supports HB 177 that clarifies and fixes issues that arose from legislation passed last year. The sponsor statement quite correctly identifies the importance of the Commercial Fishery Revolving Loan Fund (CFRLF) program to the commercial fishing industry. This legislation allows the Division of Investments to have the flexibility to provide incentivizing interest rates for the Product Quality Improvement and Engine Fuel Efficiency loan program. Both programs provide commercial fishermen great advantages by allowing fuel savings and better quality products both which improve the bottom line for a fisherman.

HB 177 also makes technical fixes to the Community Quota Entity Revolving Loan program that will clarify and make the program operation consistent with the commercial revolving loan fund program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Hansen', followed by a long horizontal line.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director



Cordova District Fishermen United
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April 3, 2013

**Representative Paul Seaton
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Representative.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov**

RE: Support HB 177 Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Chairman Seaton and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors, and our membership to offer our support of the changes proposed in HB177 to the Commercial Fishing Revolving Loan Fund(CFRLF).

Cordova District Fishermen United(CDFU) represents over 300 commercial fishing families operating in the Prince William Sound & Copper River Region where over 75% of the permits are owned by Alaska residents.

Our organization supports the clarified language and competitive interest rates proposed by Representative Edgemon in HB 177 as a benefit to Alaskans new to commercial fisheries and those seeking to make efficiency and power improvements to existing operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and your careful consideration of HB 177.

Sincerely

**Alexis Cooper
Executive Director**