

HB 251 Comments

Rep. Louise Stutes,

It was good to hear your comments this morning during the KFWG meeting. We are certainly in the midst of some very challenging times for the State, our local communities and the industry. I agree with your comments in that the seafood industry realizes and acknowledges the fact that times are changing and that we will need to absorb our fair share of potential tax increases, but I don't necessarily agree that the industry fully endorses the Governors proposed increase levels. The 1% increase, for instance, has significantly different impacts by percentage of their individual tax. I hope that there is still some opportunity for discussion. Currently our industry is trying to weather a perfect storm of negative factors including; resource issues, market collapse, exchange rate gradients, and the state's economic condition. I know that there are solutions to these difficult issues and I respect and appreciate your effort and leadership, however I also hope there may still be some time and opportunity for discussion and input from the industry on this tax issue.

Thanks,

Matt Moir