

Good Morning.

Thank you for committing time yesterday to visit with UFA members! I appreciate your updates and insight. I am writing this morning to follow up on my comments yesterday. I wanted to again explain why I suspect you haven't had much testimony on the proposed fisheries tax legislation in the fisheries committee.

As you know, fisheries taxes are complex and have a history to them that is also complicated. Additionally, how the proposed fisheries taxes fit in the larger puzzle of the State's fiscal crisis is also hard to comprehend at this time. Since the bill was going to be heard but not amended in the fisheries committee, my view was to watch the development of the budget to gain insight. Please do not take the lack of opposition to this bill as support.

We, like UFA and RDC, believe everything should be on the table but filling the large gap is critical before adding taxes to the industries that you hope grow the pie of economic development in the State. Cuts and increased taxes should be examined carefully for unanticipated outcomes that stall or retract the growth of the resources industries that are the core of the State's economy.

Thank you again for your interest.

~stephanie

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