

HB 251 - Murray comments

Madam Chair

We have comments on HB 251 and ask for amended or added language that includes guided and unguided charter businesses an/or their owners under SEC. 3 or new Section.

As commercial fishermen we currently pay 3% of gross value of fish landed. This is called Raw Fish Tax. The RFT is split 50/50 between state (general fund) and municipalities where fish is landed.

An example of where Sitka share goes is 100k to Sitka General Fund and a (estimated 2016) 900k goes to the Sitka Harbor department. The RFT helps pay for the harbor infrastructure.

We believe other resource extracting industries such as charter businesses should be asked to step up during these difficult financial times. Currently they pay no taxes except local sales tax.

This seems like a reasonable request in this time of need.

Finally we support HB 251

Sincerely John Murray F/V Sea Bear 224 Observatory st Sitka 738-6212
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