



House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Louise Stutes, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801

24 March 2015

### **OPPOSE HB 112**

Dear Madame Chair and House Fisheries Committee Members,

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is a commercial fishing gear group comprised of more than 150 paying skipper and crew memberships, as well as over 75 paying business members. SEAS represents the interests of roughly 1,500 fishermen in the S01A fishery, and their families and communities throughout SE Alaska and beyond.

The combined permitting fees paid by the S01A permit holders in our limited entry fishery contributed nearly \$400,000 to the CFEC budget this past year alone. SEAS is very happy with the way in which CFEC has and continues to be run by the current Commissioners and staff at the agency. In addition to the economic impact our permit holders bring to the table, SEAS has the unique ability to judge the longstanding work of the agency, due to our involvement in the S01A permit buyback – the only buyback of its kind. Through the enduring hard work of the people at CFEC and Representative Millett, who carried the required bill through the State Legislature, the S01A fishery is more stable and properly amended to the needs of our current times. We believe CFEC has been improperly demonized by some and point to our fantastic decade-long interaction with the agency on this issue (which continues to this day in the multi-phase buyback). It was the due diligence and day-in and day-out work that CFEC performed which allowed the buyback not simply to go forward, but to carry on in a most effective manner.



We are some of the many fishermen who contribute directly to the CFEC budget, we therefore believe we should and do have the right to help determine the future of this agency. We are unequivocally opposed to HB 112 and any outside attempts to configure the agency according to the whims of others.

Oppose HB 112 and keep CFEC as it was intended to be from the beginning: an independent agency, out of the direct political winds of the day.

Respectfully,

Daniel Castle

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association, President