

March 30-April 1, 2015

Dear House and Senate Finance Committees,

Alaska's healthy fisheries depend on a robust oil and hazardous substance spill prevention and response agency. I support the approach proposed in HB 158 and SB 86. A modest per gallon surcharge on refined fuel products will help the Department of Environmental Conservation contain oil spills and clean up hazardous contaminated sites.

As you are aware, this fund is used to assist in large spill response activities, oil spill response training, contaminated soil clean up, containment of spills on land and water, and the administrative functions of the Spill Prevention and Response Division.

Without this important capacity to prevent, respond to, and clean up oil spills both large and small, we run the risk of putting the burden of cleanup on future Alaskans, and impacting the market perception of our world class wild Alaskan fisheries.

Oil and gas development is integral to the Alaska economy. It is fitting that we should have a well-funded agency prepared to quickly assist when an accidental spill occurs. Please consider and pass HB 158 or SB 86 this session so Alaska can maintain its reputation for responsible resource development, which includes accidental spill prevention and cleanup.

I support HB 158 and SB 86 - please fund our Spill Prevention and Response Division

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