



4 April 2015

Co-Chairmen Talerico and Nageak
House Resources Committee
Capitol Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801

OPPOSE HB 112

Co-Chairmen and Committee Members,

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association remains vigorously opposed to HB112, as passage of this bill legitimizes the Governor's Administrative Order 279, an over-reaching order whose action we believe should have remained explicitly with the Alaska State Legislature. **Passage of this bill legitimizes executive overreach, plain and simple.**

Furthermore, we are uncomfortable with the compensation change to the Commissioner positions. The undercurrent is that the CFEC Commissioners should be compensated less because of the workload perceived to be light at one point in time. As CFEC is funded entirely by commercial fishing fees (above the required amount by roughly \$3 million), and the permit holders of the S01A fishery pay nearly \$400,000 annually to CFEC, we believe that we have the right to say we want competent, highly capable, and well compensated Commissioners defending Limited Entry and continuing their good work in the years to come. We do not want a weakened CFEC and part-time Commissioners is a bad idea.

Finally, as HB 112, in its current iteration during this Legislative Session, has been proposed as a cost-saving measure, we would like to see the fiscal effects to the State, over the next few years, by such a transfer of employees from exempt service to classified service. Mandatory increases in pay as well as almost certain overtime expenditures under such a scheme will result in money that the State will not be able to afford in tight budgetary times. But this fiscal situation has not been addressed or even acknowledged.

I thank you for your consideration and appreciate your adherence to the legislative process which allows our voice to be heard.

Sincerely,

Dan Castle
President

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
PO Box 23081 Juneau, AK 99802
907-463-5080