



SEAFOOD PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE

PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS & MARKETERS OF PREMIUM QUALITY SEAFOODS

13 February, 2017

SPC support for CS HB87:

Representative Stutes, Chair
House Fisheries
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol (mail stop 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members:

Seafood Producers Cooperative is the longest existing and largest North American fisherman-owned company. Our 500 Alaskan commercial fishermen owners, families, and employees extend our appreciation and gratitude to you for sponsoring House Bill 87. We thank all the House Fisheries Committee members for the effort you have devoted to gathering public testimony and processing this important legislation. Finding knowledgeable, capable, and willing Alaskans with economic connection to our fisheries to serve on the State Board of Fish has been a decades' long challenge. Application of the ethics code and conflict of interest procedures should be consistent and inclusive of all Board members in proposal deliberation.

This bill succinctly clarifies exclusions from Board votes on proposals where members have direct financial conflict. CS HB87, unshackles the participation of the Board of Fish members who have extensive knowledge of the fisheries and their economic, social, cultural and scientific management principles. Currently these members are prohibited from deliberating or writing on proposals because of familial economic fishery connections.

We thank you and encourage your support for this sensible and essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Morelli
CEO & President
Seafood Producers Cooperative

cc: Richard Davis
westbank47@yahoo.com