

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

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March 16, 2017

Representative Josephson, Co-Chair
Representative Tarr, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SUPPORT for HB87: *"An Act relating to participation in matters before the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game by the members of the respective boards; and providing for an effective date."*

Dear Representatives Josephson, Tarr and other Committee Members:

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters represents the interests of 473 permit holders and their families and WE SUPPORT the Fisheries side of this bill (we have no comment regarding the Board of Game).

Specific Board of Fisheries members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. This is done in part for the diverse knowledge each Member brings to the table. Our state's fisheries are extremely complex. There is no way each Member could know all the intricacies surrounding sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries in each Alaskan region. If put into effect, HB 87 would lift the veil so those with knowledge around the table can speak and share their expertise.

This is long overdue. If you've ever been to a Board of Fisheries meeting you'll understand how difficult it is to watch a knowledgeable Board Member leave the table and be quiet when he could offer a great deal to assist the group in their decision-making process. We support this bill and respectfully ask you to pass it today.

Thank you,



Cynthia Wallesz

Cc: Representative Stutes