

Bob Kehoe's Testimony re: HB 379
House Labor and Commerce Committee Hearing
Monday, March 19, 2018, 3:15 pm

My name is Bob Kehoe, and I am the Executive Director of the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association (PSVOA).

PSVOA supports HB 379.

The bill expands upon the Legislature's effort in 2010 to provide a financial incentive to vessel owners to obtain insurance to fully cover their crewmembers in the event of an injury.

Vessel owners are not required by law to carry insurance for their crewmembers, which is different than shoreside employers who are required by law to insure their employees under the state's workers compensation system. In addition, the cost of vessel insurance is relatively high compared to the rates paid by shoreside employers. For example, a purse seine operation typically has four crewmembers. The cost of insuring the crew can be as high as \$400 per man per month.

As small, independent business owners, the cost of liability insurance is a major fixed cost. The bill will ease the financial burden on vessel owners in paying the cost of insurance, and will further promote the goal of ensuring all of the medical needs of an injured crewmembers are satisfied.

PSVOA respectfully requests the Committee's support in moving the bill forward.