

After listening to the House Finance Committee hearing on HB231, I felt that I might have some comments that could be of interest to you. I am an employee at the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC); however, these are my own personal comments.

There was a question about the commissioner pay increasing each year with a step increase. I would like to mention that commissioner salary is spelled out in statute (AS 16.43.060) at range 26, step C. There is no provision for any step increase in current statute, unlike what was mentioned.

The department of personnel lady was asked why should CFEC employees be moved from exempt status to union. She replied that moving CFEC employees over to unions would ensure that they would receive like pay for like duties. She completely overlooked the fact that recently there was a legislative audit on the CFEC, and as a result of that audit, many measures were undertaken such as a comprehensive review of all employee duties to ensure that we receive like pay for like duties already. She may have been nervous or otherwise did not know that this happened within the last few years.

The third part I wanted to touch on was the question if employees at the CFEC wanted to unionize. The personnel lady said there were a couple employees that requested such an action. Her response surprised me because just this last Tuesday, there was a poll taken in our office meeting as to how many of us would like to become union and no longer be exempt; every one of us voted to remain exempt. My perspective is that if any employee had requested that we become union members, they are no longer employed at CFEC or have changed their mind as far as I am aware.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Cordially,
Marcus Gho
