



PSVOA

PURSE SEINE VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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February 28, 2019

Senator Gay Stevens
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau AK, 99801

Re : Fishermen's Fund Legislation: SB 61

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association ("PSVOA"), I am writing to express our strong support for SB 61.

PSVOA is the largest fishing association on the West Coast representing small boat owners operating in a wide spectrum of fisheries, including state and federally managed fisheries in Alaska and the West Coast. By far, the most common fishery among PSVOA members is the Alaska salmon seine fishery.

PSVOA strongly supports SB 61, which amends AS § 23.35.145. Current law limits the amount of the benefit received by a commercial fishing vessel owner from the Fund to fifty percent (50%) of the owner's insurance deductible in cases where an injured crewmember files a claim for benefits with the Fund. SB 61 increases the owner's benefit to the full amount of the insurance deductible. SB 61 will provide additional financial incentive for vessel owners to obtain insurance to fully cover crewmembers in the event of an injury or illness at sea.

Thank you for sponsoring SB 61.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert Kehoe

Robert Kehoe, Executive Director