

Support for HB35  
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Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association  
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House Fisheries Committee  
Representative Stutes, Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99811  
via email: [Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov](mailto:Matt.Gruening@akleg.gov)

**RE: Support HB35 Participation in Matters before the Board of Fisheries**

Dear Chair Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association (PVOA) is composed of over 100 members participating in a wide variety of species and gear type fisheries. An additional 35 businesses supportive to our industry are members. Targeted species include salmon, herring, halibut, sablefish, cod, crab, shrimp, pollock, tuna, geoduck, and sea cucumber.

**Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association supports HB35 that would allow Board of Fisheries and Board of Game members to deliberate on regulatory proposals, but not vote when they are found to have personal or financial interests.** We will limit our comments to the Board of Fisheries only. Allowing Board members with expertise in a fishery to deliberate, but not vote, helps the entire Board make more informed decisions.

Before the ethics rules were changed, Board of Fisheries members were allowed to fully participate in discussions and were less often conflicted out of voting. This bill would not change the process entirely back to this manner, since Board members would still not be allowed to vote on proposals that they have personal or financial interests in. However, they would be able to contribute to the discussions on matters they have the most experience in and help educate the remaining voting members.

PVOA believes this bill would allow Board Members that are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by Legislature, for their expertise, to better contribute to the decisions of the Board. Thank you for considering our comments; we believe this change of participation and conflict of interest would strengthen the Board of Fisheries process. We would be happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,



Megan O'Neil  
Executive Director