



March 18, 2019

Co-Chair Geran Tarr
Co-Chair John Lincoln
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 35

Dear Co-Chair Tarr, Co-Chair Lincoln, and Members of the House Resources Committee,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) appreciates this opportunity to express our organization's support for House Bill 35 – 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.

CDFU is a non-profit membership organization representing over 900 commercial fishing families who participate in commercial fisheries in Alaska's Area E, which includes Prince William Sound, the Copper River region and the northern-central Gulf. It is our mission to preserve, promote and perpetuate the commercial fishing industry in Area E and to further promote safety at sea, legislation, conservation, management and general welfare for the mutual benefit of all our members.

The commercial fishermen of Area E have a strong and historic relationship with the Alaska State Legislature and State of Alaska Departments that we foster with great care, proactive communications and representation. CDFU would like to formally state our strong support for HB 35 and the added measure of flexibility that this policy change would provide to members of the Board of Fisheries by allowing members on the Board of Fisheries the ability to deliberate on proposals in which they may have additional insight.

In years past, it has been difficult to utilize the full knowledge or experience of Board of Fisheries members due to limitations placed upon the Board. Although ethical limitations



are important, it is imperative that members of the Board be able to share their input and expertise freely with the public and with other decision makers during the Board of Fisheries process. We believe current limitations are a disservice to the important work of the Board of Fisheries, which is why we stand behind HB 35.

Thank you, Chairs Tarr and Lincoln and Committee, for lending full consideration to the positions of CDFU. We are hopeful that HB 35 will receive your full support and will advance to positive discussions on the floor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to CDFU for comment, support, or with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President of the Board, CDFU

Chelsea Haisman
Executive Director, CDFU

CC:

Representative Hopkins
Representative Hannan
Representative Spohnholz
Representative Tuck
Representative Talerico
Representative Rauscher
Representative Rasmussen
Representative Stutes