

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Roni Lee Carmon
REPRESENTING: _____
BILL # or SUBJECT: SB 90
COMMITTEE: SRES DATE: 3-29-19

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

I've been fishing for a lot of years. I watched Fish & Game and our government mismanage our commercial fisheries all those years and then watched Fish & Game and politicians get in there and ruin it all.

If Bob Penney, Bass Pro, all sporting goods suppliers, conservation groups, Ducks Unlimited, associations of all sport manufacturers (some 20,000 different organizations) want to buy permits and fisheries and commercial fishermen I'm all for it.

It's always been said, "Government will ruin any business, if not all business," and you've certainly ruined the commercial fishery.

So, buy us all out, across the board. And buy us out based on the amount we contribute to the general fund. Last year, we furnished \$116 million to the State's general fund.

So, go back 30 years X the \$116 million and multiply that by 10 = \$44,300,000,000 to the Cook Inlet salmon & other fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula, equally split, regardless of who caught what. \$44.3 billion, nothing less. Which is \$1,700,000 for each fisherman on the Kenai Peninsula; \$1.7 million for about 2,500 fishermen.

That's pretty much what the state made over the last 30 years of commercial fishing money to the general fund.

In those 30 years the state could have made 70 million dollars more per year but the sport and personal use dipnet fisheries took those monies from the commercial fishermen and the general fund.

See, I told you. Government can't run anything without ruining it all for everybody.

A smart businessman would fold his business and go somewhere else. But when you're in the game with a million-dollar investment you can't sell out and you lose your permit if you don't fish it.

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The state will take it if you don't fish, even if you take a loss by fishing. This is a criminal act by your government.

\$1,700,000 - a fair price for decades of torture.

I hope I enlighten all you government and ADF&G employees, congressmen, lobbyists and bean counters how smart you really are and what you have done to your #1 best renewable resource.

Instead of imposing another mistake in your everyday doings in Juneau, let's make a deal. Let's negotiate a buy-back. Starting price, \$1,700,000 for our Kenai Peninsula Borough fishermen only.

Remember, Atlantic Richfield sold their oil company for \$28 billion, so you can sell your fisheries to the sport fishery industry also. If these companies want our fish then \$44 billion is the price for those fish, and it would be cheap when divided by all the sport fishing companies.

The reason I'm writing this is because the state can't manage the commercial fisheries fairly, so buy us out. You can get your \$210 million to the general fund from the sport fishery and personal use dipnet fishery.

If you really have a buyer for half the setnet fishermen, you can get the money for *all* commercial fishermen.

If these fish bring \$25 per pound as claimed, you can make millions more by giving them to the sport fishing associations and the dipnet fishermen.