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January 29, 2020

Rep. Louise Stutes, Chair
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Subject: House Bill 203 Sponsored by Rep. Knopp

Dear Chair Stutes, and Members of the Fisheries Committee

My name is Frank Kelty, a 50-year resident of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor and I'm writing on behalf of myself today. I left Alaska in early January to my retirement home California. A short bio on my background, I have been involved in the Bering Sea Crab fisheries for many years. I have worked in Unalaska as seafood plant manager running crab and cod operations for 30 years. I have also served Unalaska as an elected official for 20 years serving as Mayor, City Council Member. I served as the chairmen of the ADFG Unalaska Advisory Committee for over 20 years and have served on many state and federal fishery related committees.

I write in support of HB 203; I believe this bill is a win win for all involved in developing a live crab market for low volume, high value species of Bering Sea King Crab and Tanner Crab species. I should point out to committee that live shipments of Aleutian Island Golden King Crab have been allowed for many years with much success. I believe if the shipping of these species live, will increase the value of this product, and will allow for the development of a new high-end markets for this product.

I don't see any impacts to local and state shared taxes as the crab will landed in Unalaska or other communities; at local processing plants and all fishery taxes will be paid and ADFG fish tickets recorded. I have concluded that there won't be impacts to local workforce, as processing workers will be working in packaging the crab for shipment, most the shipping will be sent out in containers so waterfront workforce won't be impacted.

In Closing; I urge the Fisheries Committee to move HB 203 out of Committee I believe that changing this legislation to allow the shipping of all King Crab, and Tanner crab species is in the best interest of the companies involved in developing this new market and for the State of Alaska in supporting increased economic development in fisheries.

Sincerely


Frank Kelty