



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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February 12, 2020

The Honorable Louise Stutes
House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes;

On behalf of Governor Mike Dunleavy, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) respectfully requests HB 247 "An Act relating to the fish and game fund; establishing the sport fishing enhancement surcharge; relating to the repeal of the sport fishing facility surcharge; providing for an effective date by amending the effective date of § 21, ch. 18, SLA 2016; and providing for an effective date," be scheduled for a hearing in the House Fisheries Committee at your earliest convenience.

The purpose of this legislation is to allow the Department of Fish and Game to continue collecting a reduced surcharge on sport fishing licenses after the sport fish hatchery facility bond is satisfied. This bill proposes creation of a new sub-account of the fish and game fund to collect and account for the surcharge revenue separately. This bill also proposes restrictions on the uses of the surcharge revenue, only allowing for sport fishery enhancement and the maintenance of sport fishing facilities. The loss of the surcharge revenue will result in the immediate loss of half a million dollars per year that has been used for sport fish hatchery production in southeast Alaska.

In accordance with your hearing request requirements, we are submitting the following documents for your review:

1. Governor Dunleavy's transmittal letter
2. Sectional analysis
3. Additional supporting document – surcharge revenue breakdown

At this time invited testimony is contingent upon hearing date and the information will be provided once the bill is scheduled. No Information Services equipment is needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you need additional information please contact Rachel Hanke, Legislative Liaison, at 465-6137 or Rachel.hanke@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lang".

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang