



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 15, 2021

Representative Grier Hopkins
State Capitol Room 434
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for HB 104 Motor Fuel Tax; Vehicle Reg. Fee

Dear Rep. Grier Hopkins and Members of the House Transportation Committee,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state, and the federal fisheries off Alaska's coast.

We understand this tax is necessary to maintain infrastructure and recognize the tax has not been raised in some time. However, our fleet has been faced with numerous additional expenses over the past few years, including drop in fish prices, rise of fuel costs, impacts from COVID-19, and Chinese trade tariffs. When this bill was first introduced by Senator Bishop during the 31st legislature, we were concerned it would be an added financial burden to commercial fishermen. However, we were pleased to see an amendment offered last session by Representative Stutes and we greatly appreciate her amendment language being added to this current version of the bill.

The amendment that is especially integral to our support of this bill is Section 8 AS 43.40.030(C)(2) *"a watercraft licensed under AS 16.05.490 or 16.05.530 and used for commercial fishing is entitled to a motor fuel tax refund of five cents a gallon if the tax on the motor fuel has been paid."*

We thank Rep. Josephson for including this language in the bill and we look forward to supporting the bill as currently written. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Regards,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director

CC: Rep. Josephson