



Cordova District Fishermen United
PO Box 939 | 509 First Street | Cordova, AK 99574
phone. (907) 424 3447 | fax. (907) 424 3430
web. www.cdfu.org

March 31, 2021

Representative Geran Tarr, Chair
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 26

Dear Chairman Tarr and members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) appreciates this opportunity to express our organization's support for House Bill 26 – 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 that advocates for the commercial fishing families of 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 26 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 26.

Thank you for lending full consideration to the positions of CDFU. We are hopeful that



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HB 26 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