



February 11, 2022

State of Alaska House of Representatives  
House Resources Committee

Re: Support for HB 52

Chair Patkotak and Committee members:

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association supports HB 52 as a solution to the land issues associated with the Kachemak Bay State Park plan and the need to continue operations of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery.

Pacific Seafood Processors Association is a non-profit trade organization of seafood processing companies operating across Alaska. Closure of the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery would drastically impact the ability to harvest salmon throughout the Cook Inlet and northern Gulf of Alaska, eliminate the personal use China Poot sockeye dipnet fishery, and significantly negatively affect the surrounding communities that depend on these fisheries for their local economy.

The 1995 management plan explicitly identified fishery enhancement as a goal for Kachemak Bay State Park and focused on fishing as a critical recreational and commercial activity in the park and in Tutka Bay specifically. Any changes to the park plan that would end operations at the Tutka Bay Hatchery would impact communities and permit holders who've already faced years of economic hardship. Fish processors and commercial fishermen in Southcentral make up a vital backbone in local communities -- employing about 11,500 workers and contracting with local vendors and other service providers. The breadth of fishery users (recreational, personal use, and commercial) is significant and has been for decades. Removing recreational opportunities for Alaskans, as well as the base of the local economies, is unnecessary and unwarranted. This bill resolves an issue that results in support of the jobs and revenue created by the hatchery, which in turn support Alaskans, Kenai Peninsula communities, and other areas.

Thank you for opportunity to comment on HB 52, and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Barrows  
President, Pacific Seafood Processors Association