

Kodiak Seiners Association
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February 20, 2025

House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature

RE: Support for House Bill 33 – Board of Fisheries Conflict of Interest Legislation

Dear Co-Chairs Burke and Dibert, and Members of the House Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Kodiak Seiners Association (KSA), I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 33. This legislation would allow members of the Board of Fisheries & Board of Game to participate in deliberations on matters where they have been deemed to have a conflict of interest, while still prohibiting them from voting on those issues.

Under the current policy, board members with a declared conflict are entirely excluded from deliberations. This restriction prevents the Board from fully benefiting from their expertise and insights. We believe that allowing these members to contribute to discussions—without voting—ensures that all relevant perspectives and critical information are considered in the decision-making process.

Board members are appointed for their knowledge, experience, and integrity. While personal interests may be present, excluding conflicted members from deliberations can lead to decisions made without crucial input from those with firsthand experience. We firmly believe that improving the deliberative process in this way will lead to more informed and balanced fisheries management decisions.

The Kodiak Seiners Association represents 70 permit holders and active commercial fishing vessels operating in the Kodiak Management Area. We urge the legislature to pass House Bill 33 to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of the Board of Fisheries decision-making process.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Darren Platt
President
Kodiak Seiners Association