

Cody Grussendorf

From: Matthew Jones <ouzinkiemayor@ouzinkie.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:59 PM
To: Cody Grussendorf; Senate Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Ouzinkie Fish Tax Testimony

The City of Ouzinkie believes that the fish tax fund should be kept and distributed as in the past. The fish tax was provided under the provisions of AS 43.75.130 by the state providing a payment to local governments of Fisheries Business Taxes of up to 50% of taxes collected to municipalities where fishery resources are processed. This was to help defray the cost services for the commercial fisheries sector. These Fisheries Tax programs are a means of taxing fishing economic activity and reflect the partnership between State and municipalities in providing services that support the fishing industry in Alaska. Coastal municipalities provide services like water, wastewater collection and treatment, road maintenance, docks, ports, boat harbors, fire protection, police services, emergency medical services, electricity and education in support of the fishing industry. The City of Ouzinkie strongly opposes the passage of HB 65 and SB 63 that would repeal the sharing of State collected Fisheries Business and License Tax and Fisheries Resource Landing Tax with qualifying municipalities. Our coastal communities are as important as the interior communities. We should not be pitted against one another but pull together for a solution.

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