



PSVOA

PURSE SEINE VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

1900 W Nickerson St., Ste. 320 ■ Seattle, WA 98119 ■ Tel: (206) 283-7733 ■ Fax: (206) 283-7795 ■ www.psvoa.org

February 26, 2018

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 513
Juneau AK, 99801

Re : Fishermen's Fund Legislation: HB 379

Dear Representative Ortiz:

On behalf of the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association ("PSVOA"), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 379.

PSVOA is the largest fishing association on the West Coast representing small boat owners operating in a wide spectrum of fisheries, including state and federally managed fisheries in Alaska and the West Coast. By far, the most common fishery among PSVOA members is the Alaska salmon seine fishery.

PSVOA strongly supports HB 379, which amends AS § 23.35.145. Current law limits the amount of the benefit received by a commercial fishing vessel owner from the Fund to fifty percent (50%) of the owner's insurance deductible in cases where an injured crewmember files a claim for benefits with the Fund. HB 379 increases the owner's benefit to the full amount of the insurance deductible. HB 379 will provide additional financial incentive for vessel owners to obtain insurance to fully cover crewmembers in the event of an injury or illness at sea.

Thank you for sponsoring HB 379.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert Kehoe

Robert Kehoe, Executive Director