

Dear Alaska House Fisheries Committee,

History has shown that wherever open-water fish farming is allowed—whether in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Norway, or Scotland—wild fish stocks have suffered devastating declines. In all of these places, they have also faced farmed fish escaping in nature waters, like Atlantic salmon (invasive to the Pacific Ocean) into waterways that have native pacific salmon species. These companies have always said "they will be contained" and then nature happens, and these non-native species are released into the nature environment, outcompeting native species. If passed, HB 111 will put Alaska's wild fisheries at serious risk, threatening not only the environment but also the livelihoods of Native villages and fishing families who depend on them. This bill won't create sustainable jobs—instead, it will harm local communities, degrade ecosystems, and jeopardize an industry that has supported Alaskans for generations.

Rather than opening the door to harmful fish farming, Alaska should focus on strengthening regulations for both sport and commercial fishing. As a commercial fisherman, I fully support reductions in quotas and tougher regulations for sport fishing lodges, guides, and commercial fisheries alike. If the goal is to protect wild stocks, the solution lies in better management and conservation measures, not in fish farming that has repeatedly led to ecological and economic damage elsewhere.

Alaska has always led the way in sustainable fisheries management—don't let HB 111 undo that legacy. Please reject this bill and commit to protecting our wild fisheries for future generations.

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 111/ SB 108: Finfish Farms and Products. Alaska's wild fisheries are significant in supporting Alaska Native communities, filling our freezers, and driving our economy. Allowing non-native fish species to be farmed here poses a grave risk to our wild stocks, even in "contained" environments.

Diseases can be spread by airborne vectors such as birds or during potential escape from enclosures such as floods or negligence. The rearing of farm fish in Alaska would also directly undermine efforts to market the unique taste and nutritional benefits of Alaska wild

fisheries and directly compete in the marketplace with small boat harvesters. If the state legislature allows fish farming of non-salmon species, this would only make it easier for salmon farming to become a reality in the future. Please do not allow fish farming in Alaska and instead prioritize wild stocks when it comes to our food security. A renewed focus on sound management and protection of the spawning and rearing habitat of salmon and other species is the most effective and beneficial way of enhancing Alaska's food security.

REJECT HB 111. STAND UP FOR ALASKANS INSTEAD OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL FISH FARM COMPANIES.

Sincerely,

Lynn Steyaart