



NATIVE MOVEMENT
Building Healthy & Sustainable Communities
www.nativemovement.org

May 1, 2025

To: Alaska State Representatives
From: Amanda Bremner, Deputy Director

Re: Support for HB 125

Dear Honorable Alaska Representatives,

I write to express Native Movement's support for HB 125, which provides for subsistence user representation on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Native Movement is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to building people power, rooted in an Indigenized worldview, toward healthy, sustainable, and just communities for all.

Native Movement supports HB 125 because it guarantees that at least two members of the Board of Fisheries will represent subsistence users. For thousands of years Alaska Native peoples have stewarded these lands and waters through traditional practices now known as subsistence. The traditional knowledge subsistence users bring with them is critical to managing Alaska's fisheries sustainably. This voice has too often been shut out of the decisionmaking process, to the detriment of Alaska's people and resources. To create balance in our natural systems it is imperative that traditional hunters and fishers have a seat at the table.

We hope HB 125 is a first step in a larger, long-term process of integrating Alaska Native knowledge and practices into State-level decisionmaking. All of Alaska stands to gain from the wisdom subsistence users have accumulated over thousands of years of living on these lands.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bremner, Deputy Director
Native Movement

UNITED SOUTHEAST ALASKA GILLNETTERS

Box 2196, Petersburg AK 99833 * (253) 279-0707 * usag.alaska@gmail.com * akgillnet.org

USAG'S MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT, SERVE AND ENHANCE SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S COMMERCIAL GILLNET FISHERY

April 30 2025

Representative Robyn Niayug Burke and Representative Maxine Dibert
Co-chairs House Resource Committee
Juneau Capital Building Rm 124
Juneau, AK
House.resources@akleg.gov

Dear Representatives Burke and Dibert and committee members,

United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters are opposed to the current version of HB 125. We feel the current statutory standards are sufficient to allow the governor to appoint an objective fair-minded board.

We believe designated seats will formalize divisiveness at the board level. The Board of Fisheries is already that way, and it will worsen and allow for triangulation that will be the demise of the odd user group who is out. We believe that having a formal designation will result in those seats always voting the way of their seat designation, rather than in the best interest of the State.

We don't believe that a scientific seat is necessary. The Board gets guidance from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Any other scientific data is admissible in the process by proposers and stakeholders for the Boards consideration. The requirement of a scientific degree would limit the pool of resources the governor could choose from.

While we certainly understand the frustration with the Board of Fisheries process, as it can be unpleasant and arduous, we don't believe this bill will change it for the better. In fact, we believe it will make it worse. Over the years we have heard complaints of a commercial interest friendly Board, while we were complaining about a sport interest friendly Board. Both can't be true, so

either someone is lying, or their perceptions are correct, and the process is working as it should. There should be no champions for any user group, if the interest is for the best for all.

Currently, any Alaskan can submit their name for the Board, and anyone can support them for appointment. We think this works, and any changes made to the make-up of the Board can be made at the governor level, using the statutory guidance that is currently in effect. We have participated in meetings for years, and what we like to see in a Board member is intelligence, an open mind, and diligence to the process. They need to have the ability to learn about all the subject matter presented, and to disseminate the information. They should be accessible at meetings to stakeholders, regardless of whatever bias they have. Bias is inherent to the species, but a person with sound reasoning should be able to look past it. A broad background with at least a familiarity of commercial fishing, sport fishing and subsistence, with an expertise in at least one would be helpful.

We see this bill as advocating for agendas. Agendas are for proposers and stakeholders, not Board members. As ugly as the process can be at times, we will say it is a very unique process that has an immense value to the stakeholders in this State, and no steps should be taken to diminish it, as this bill would.

We appreciate your consideration of our opposition to HB 125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Worhatch', with a stylized, cursive script.

Max Worhatch, Executive Director USAG

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
PHONE (907) 842-5257



Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

April 30, 2025

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

House Resources Committee

House of Representatives

Alaska State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

House.Resources@akleg.gov

Honorable Representative Bryce Edgmon

Speaker of the House

State Capitol Room 208

Representative.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov

Honorable Senator Lyman Hoffman

State Capitol Room 518

Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov

Re: Opposition to House Bill (HB) 125, "An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries," and suggested amendments to the same

Dear Sirs:

I hope the day finds you well. The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is a consortium of thirty-one (31) federally recognized tribes of the Bristol Bay region. Our mission is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization supported by the Tribes of Bristol Bay to serve as a unified voice to provide social, economic, cultural, and educational opportunities and initiatives to benefit the Tribes and the Native people of Bristol Bay.

We are concerned about House Bill 125, and must respectfully oppose it as written. House Bill 125 would include the following addition to AS 16.05.221(a):

The governor shall appoint the members as follows:

(3) two members who represent subsistence fishing, from a list of four names submitted by the Alaska Federation of Natives; however, the governor may reject the list and request that another list be submitted;

(4) one member who represents the scientific community, from a list of three names submitted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; however, the governor may reject the list and request that another list be submitted.

BBNA respects the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, BBNA, to be true to its own mission statement and to its Tribes, does not want to surrender any power to nominate a member who represents subsistence fishing, or any power to nominate a member of the scientific community.

We respectfully ask that Governor Dunleavy and the Alaska legislature amend HB 125 as follows:

(3) two members who represent subsistence fishing-

(4) one member who represents the scientific community-

Best Regards,

Dan Breeden

Dan Breeden
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Calvin Zuelow

From: Alvin Deighton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:36 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello,

I am a personal use dipnetter, a resident of Alaska, and I request that you amend HB125 to include representation specifically for personal use fishers. Dipnetting is an important source of food for many Alaskans and I would like to know that decisions made at the highest levels in our state are including that perspective.

Respectfully,

Alvin Deighton
Fairbanks, AK

Calvin Zuelow

From: Andy [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:34 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

In reference to HB 125, I ask you all to reconsider the makeup of the board. Alaska truly is the last frontier and as such, all should be fairly represented on governance and protection involving our very special resources. The Personal Use(PU) fisheries impact many Alaskan households and should have direct input to the Board. Failure to address PU concerns and issues will disenfranchise many Alaskans.

I ask you to ammend the Board make-up to include PU representation.

Andy Whitish
North Pole, Alaska

Calvin Zuelow

From: Chuck Mailander [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:27 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB 125

I am opposed to the wording in HB 125.

It fails to recognize the many Alaskans who depend on personal use fisheries to help feed their families.

There should be one or better yet two, personal use members on the board of fisheries

I have been fishing at Chitina since 1968.

Please listen to your constituents!

Charles A. (Chuck) Mailander
[REDACTED]

Calvin Zuelow

From: Henry, Dave B (DOT) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:00 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Alaska Personal Use dipnetter

I am a PU dipnetter and want HB125 amended to give representation to Personal Use fishery users. Please amend HB125 to reflect this.

David B Henry
Fairbanks, AK

Calvin Zuelow

From: David Henry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:01 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use dipnetting

I am a PU dipnetter and want HB125 amended to give representation to Personal Use fishery users. Please amend HB125 to reflect this.

David B Henry
Fairbanks, AK

Calvin Zuelow

From: Ginnie Zinza <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:03 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello,

I am a born and raised Alaskan. I rely on personal use fishing and would like representation. Please ammend HB125 to include a voice for my and my family. My father has been a personal use fisherman for 80 plus years, we would like the board to include all Alaskan fisherman.

Thank you,

Ginnie Zinza

Calvin Zuelow

From: Harry Brod <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:11 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello House Resources Committee,

I am a 37 year resident of Alaska and have dipnetted every year of my residency. I am disappointed that the HB125 does not provide for personal use representation on the board. Personal use fishing has a large user base and is distinct from commercial. sport and subsistence. Please amend HB 125 to accommodate Personal Use representation.

Respectfully,
Harry Brod

--

Harry Brod
[REDACTED]

Calvin Zuelow

From: James Wells <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:02 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

As a resident of Alaska for over 20 years and a Personal Use fisher, I have come to rely upon our catch of fish from the Copper River Chitna to help provide healthy and nutritious food for our family.

With the difficulty of finding wholesome food from the general food supply found in stores around town, it is very important to me to be able to provide clean, healthy and nutritious food for myself and my family. The catching of wild salmon from the Copper River has ensured that I can provide nutrient dense, healthy food that is free of the harmful chemicals and additives found in the vast majority of foods available in the stores.

Without proper representation for Personal Use Fishermen and women it is uncertain whether this supply of food will be available to us in the future. Please consider the inclusion of Personal Use representatives to this "Board of Fisheries" so as to give voice to the tens of thousands of Alaskan residents who rely upon this food supply.

Thank you,
James Wells

Calvin Zuelow

From: Jared Wardle [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:04 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

To whom it may concern,

I am a personal use dipnetter. I want to see HB125 amended to give representation to Personal Use fishery users. They need representation so their rights and concerns are fairly represented.

Jared Wardle

Calvin Zuelow

From: Jeffrey Bushke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:21 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

It is imperative that Personal Use dipnetters have a seat at the table. We depend on the Board of Fisheries to be fair and equitable. My family has made the trip to Chitina on an annual basis to help support our nutritional needs.

I implore you to amend HB125 to allow Personal Use to have representation at the table.

Jeffrey Bushke
Fairbanks
Disabled Veteran
Dipnetter
Voter

Calvin Zuelow

From: Jim Lewandoski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:31 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Greetings!

I'm a 49 year Alaskan, and a dipnetter at Chitina.

My kids grew up on Chitina fish, and soon their kids will too.

I feel it's very important that us Personal Use Alaskans are represented.

Please amend House bill 125 to allow for us to have representation.

Thank you, Jim Lewandoski, Ester

Calvin Zuelow

From: John P. Mitchell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:10 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a personal use dipnet fisherman who has been using the Chitina dipnet fishery for about 10 years. The new HB125 does not include any representation for personal use fisherman. This is very unfortunate oversight and really needs to be addressed. Please consider amending this bill to add personal use fisherman representation. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to get in touch with me. Thank you for your time.

--

John P. Mitchell
john@trailingdust.com
907-687-5060
Resurgam

Calvin Zuelow

From: AKJulieDoll <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:45 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I am an AK resident and my family has always fished. We believe there should be representation on the Board of Fisheries for dipnetting separate from sport fishing.

Julie Doll, Jacqueline Doll
Spencer & Rachael Doll
5625 Old Valdez Trail
Salcha, AK 99714

Calvin Zuelow

From: Justin Boots <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:35 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello

This is Justin Boots. I am a personal use fisherman. I'd like your bill amended to include representation for this fishery on the board.

Thanks,
Justin
Sent from my iPhone

Calvin Zuelow

From: Keith Genter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:08 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Good afternoon,

As a Alaskan who depends on the fish we get through dipnetting in Chitina and various other waters of south-central Alaska, I am asking that you amend HB125 to include personal use fishery users and their representatives. We don't ask for much, but we want to ensure that we have a voice and a vote in matters that affect our natural resources. To exclude us, is disrespectful to the residents of our great state. Don't favor the commercial interests over our communities.

Respectfully,
Keith Genter
Wasilla

Calvin Zuelow

From: Leroy Wilson [REDACTED] t>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:03 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I'm a dipnetter and we need representation on the board.
Sent from my iPhone

Calvin Zuelow

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:14 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: HB125

House Resources Committee:

HB125 needs to be amended to include Personal Use (PU) representation. It is unbelievable that this bill does not include representation for such a large percentage of Alaska residents that partake in PU fisheries. We are lifelong Alaskan residents and depend on the Chitna PU Dipnet Fisheries annually to fill our freezers. It is only proper that we should have equal representation in how our fisheries are managed.

Please amend HB125 to include representation for PU fisheries.

Thank you,

Lisa Martsolf

Calvin Zuelow

From: Marshall Teague <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:16 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I am a personal use fisherman. I believe HB125 needs to be amended so as there is a PU representation on the board. Please reconsider as this effects alot of alaska families who depend on these natural resources. Thank you and have a nice day

Calvin Zuelow

From: Matthew Ortega <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:37 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Please amend HB 125 I'm a alaska resident since 1974 i use this fisherie.

Calvin Zuelow

From: P Turner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 2:54 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I am a PU dipnetter and I demand representation on the board of fisheries! There are 40,000 of us and we require representation!

Pat Turner
Dipnetter since the 1980's

Calvin Zuelow

From: Paul Delys <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:10 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Good afternoon,

As I understand it, HB125, in essence, dedicates seats on the Board of Fisheries to specific constituencies including Commercial, Subsistence, Sport and Science. Conspicuously missing is representation for people who use the Personal Use fisheries across the state. There are 40,000+ PU fishers and their families. Please ensure either that PU fishers receive direct representation on the Board of Fish or kill HB125 entirely when you discuss it on May 2.

Thank you,

Paul Delys
Chitina Dipnetter since the '80s
Alaska resident since '75

Calvin Zuelow

From: ryanita gray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:12 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Dear Representatives,

I am a personal use salmon dipnetter and am disappointed that HB125 does not provide representation for personal use fisheries.

There are approximately 40,000 Alaska residents who depend on the Chitina and South Central Alaska personal use dipnet fisheries, not to mention the untold number of Alaska residents who partake in the various other Alaska PU fisheries, so this would directly affect a high percentage of the state's population.

As a personal use dipnetter I want HB125 amended to give representation to Personal Use fishery users.

Thank you,
Ryan Gray
Fairbanks

Calvin Zuelow

From: Sam Coffman [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 4:05 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Give Representation to Personal Use Fishery Users

To whom it may concern,

I recently learned that HB125, drafted by Representative Nellie Jimmie, does not include a personal use (PU) users (i.e., dipnetters). In the bill's current form, PU would not be provided representation on the Board of Fish.

I am a dipnetter and I strongly encourage and recommend the Bill be amended to include representation of personal users on the Board of Fish.

Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,
Sam

--

Sam Coffman
Fairbanks, AK

Calvin Zuelow

From: Seth Reedy [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:04 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

To elected representatives,
Please amend House Bill 125 to include seat representation of personal use fishery in the proposed bill to establish "seats" by fishery by incorporating TWO seats for the personal use fishery.

V/R,

Seth Reedy
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

Calvin Zuelow

From: stephanie gohlke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:19 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

This isn't good! My family, to include myself and husband are personal use dipnetters and want HB125 amended to give representation to personal use fishery users.

We are retired and count on dipnetting for a major food source. Please do what is best for Alaskans.

Stephanie Gohlke

Calvin Zuelow

From: Steven Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:43 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I am an avid PU dipnetter and want HB125 amended to give representation to Personal Use fishery users. Please
Sent from my iPhone

Calvin Zuelow

From: Susanne Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:04 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello, I'm a 54 year Alaska resident. I've used my personal use dipnetting Permit to supplement my food supply for the year. As most of you know groceries in Alaska are very expensive and the salmon we catch is a big help. Please add a personal use representative to the board.

Thank you Susanne Christiansen. Big Lake Alaska

Calvin Zuelow

From: Wayne Weis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:01 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

I'm a personal use dipnetter and would like to see HB 126 amended to include a PU representative on the board.

Thank you!

Wayne Weis

Calvin Zuelow

From: Stauner, William <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:02 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

To Whom it may concern: HB 125 as is current written will leave me and thousands of Personal Use fisherman without representation, I urge that it be amended to include PU, as a resident of over 50 years this is very important to me and my family members.
Thank you for your time.

William Stauner

Calvin Zuelow

From: Brandon and Shanna Irvine [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:16 PM
To: House Resources
Subject: Personal Use representation in HB125

Hello, I am an annual user of the Personal Use fishery in Chitina. I would like HB125 amended to provide representation for Personal Use fishermen like myself.

Thank You
-Brandon Irvine