



Alaska Food Policy Council

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Dear Representative Jimmie,

On behalf of the Alaska Food Policy Council (AFPC), I am writing to express **our full and enthusiastic support for House Bill 125**, which addresses membership on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. We also support the recent amendments adopted in House Fisheries and the Committee Substitute.

At AFPC, we recognize that healthy communities in Alaska rely on the strength and integration of many systems. Among these, the management of our fish and game resources is essential. It is critical that the decision-making bodies governing these resources include diverse voices that reflect the wide range of ways Alaskans depend on and are affected by these management decisions.

There is a frequently cited—but unverified—statistic that 95% of Alaska's food is imported. While this figure may approximate the reality of purchased food, it does not reflect the full picture of our food system. In particular, it fails to account for the vital role of subsistence foods, especially in rural Alaska. As we work to close this data gap through other initiatives, we must ensure that subsistence is not similarly overlooked in resource management. Decisions made by the Board of Fisheries can have profound impacts not only on our commercial and sport fisheries, but also on the food security, cultural integrity, and survival of many Alaska communities.

We also urge similar consideration be given to subsistence representation on the Alaska Board of Game. Thank you for championing this important legislation. We appreciate the thoughtful dialogue in committee so far, and we will continue to follow HB 125 closely alongside food system partners across the state.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lord, Advocacy & Policy Director