



Chitina Dipnetters Association
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Chuck Derrick, Pres.
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January 27, 2026
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 33 – Conflict of Interest Bill

Dear Chair Senator Merrick and committee membership

The Chitina Dipnetters Association, a non-profit 501(c) (4) organization, representing the 9,000 annual Alaska resident personal use dipnetters, who supplement their families' food supply by harvesting salmon from the Copper River, is opposed to the passage of HB33.

BOF & BOG ethical standards dealing with member conflict of interest are in place and have placed checks and balances on members to prevent unfair participation in board proposal deliberations where that member has a financial or personal interest in matters undertaken in the proposal. In such a circumstance, the conflicted member, at time of deliberation, must recuse themselves and sit out as a member of the public until deliberations are concluded on the proposal where the conflict of interest occurs.

HB33 seeks to do away with these checks and balances. This bill would create unfair advantage for someone who has financial interest in an Alaska fishery or game resource, over those users of the resource who are harvesting food for their family. It could also create unfair advantage for one commercial user group over another who harvest the same resource.

HB33 offers nothing positive for state residents, only unfair advantage to a few. To this end, The Chitina Dipnetters Assn. recommends non-passage of HB33 out of your committee.

Thank you,
Chuck Derrick
president- CDA