



Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.

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March 9, 2009

To: Representative Alan Austerman
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.
Representative Jay Ramras
Representative Cathy Munoz
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Paul Seaton
Representative Peggy Wilson
Representative John Harris
Representative Mark Neuman

Subject: HJR 21 – A Resolution requesting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to cease consideration of an amendment package that would require a Pacific cod endorsement for a license limitation program to participate in the Pacific cod fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Dear Representatives Austerman, Thomas, Ramras, Munoz, Millett, Edgmon, Seaton, Wilson, Harris, and Neuman,

Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. strongly supports House Joint Resolution 21 that you have co-sponsored. Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. is the Alaska Native Village Corporation for the Alutiiq villages of Akhiok and Kaguyak on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island.

We are deeply concerned that the current North Pacific Fishery Management Council action to reduce existing federal ground fish licenses for both fixed gear and trawl gear, combined with a proposed sector split is not good for our coastal communities and not good for Alaska.

The life blood of our village and many other communities in the Gulf of Alaska depend upon access to the marine resources that lie on our doorsteps. Our communities are continually losing access to local fisheries and it does not matter whether it is called rationalization or something else – the result is the same. If we continue down this same path at some point in the future all our federal water Gulf fisheries could be fully owned by Outside interests.

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We encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass HJR 21 and thereby send a strong statement to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council that their amendment package is not good for Alaska communities and should be scrapped. The Council should heed the guidance in HJR 21 and cease considering the LLP recency amendment package. Any attempt to address similar issues in the future should also address as a primary goal how the fishing economies of Gulf of Alaska Communities can be maintained or strengthened as a result of the amendment package.

We thank you for your concern and effort on this very important matter.

Sincerely,



David D. Goade, President & CEO
Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc.

cc: The Honorable Sarah Palin, Governor, State of Alaska
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Crome, Fisheries Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
John Moller, Rural Advisor, Office of the Governor