



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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February 4, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (Mail Stop 3100)
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Edgmon, and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports passage of HB 41 to provide for Board of Fisheries members to participate in matters before the Board, if they declare their personal or financial interest in a fishery.

Members are on the Board for their expertise in some aspect of fishing. It is vital that all seven Board members, especially those most informed of the issues concerning a fishery, be able to participate in the discussions on matters before the Board. We also support the definition of immediate family as suggested in HB 41.

UFA is the largest statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 37 organizations participating in fisheries throughout Alaska and its offshore waters. We appreciate your consideration on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Vinsel".

Mark Vinsel
Executive Director