



Cordova District Fishermen United
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February 8, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon
Special Committee on Fisheries
State Capitol, Room 424
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB266 – Personal Use Fishing Priority

Dear Representative Edgmon,

I am writing on behalf of the Cordova District Fishermen United Board of Directors, and our members to oppose HB266 – “Personal Use Fishing Priority”.

Having read Representative Stoltze’s sponsor statement, I am very concerned at the logic applied to this bill. Stoltz states that Alaskans should have a priority over people coming from elsewhere in the country and that personal use fisheries should be given equal priority to subsistence users during periods of stock shortage.

Using this logic, shouldn’t the committee consider also giving a priority to “communities” that are dependent on Alaska’s ocean resources? In Cordova, the City of Cordova receives a Raw Fish Tax from every fisherman – regardless of where they live year round – which is applied to fund our local hospital, schools, roads and more. The community of Cordova thrives during the commercial fishing season. Businesses that are closed for the winter open again, and canneries employ thousands of people to help process the fish that are delivered locally. Our community is economically dependent on the commercial fishing industry.

If you give everything a priority, nothing has a priority. Things should stay the way they are currently managed. The State of Alaska has the tools and expertise necessary to best manage Alaska’s fisheries ensuring adequate resources for all user groups.

Sincerely,

Rochelle van den Broek
Executive Director