



Our Mission: To support our membership through cooperative economic development and community service.

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mike Chenault
Speaker of The House
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of the Homer Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, and its 500+ business members, I'd like to voice support for legislation, HB 285, which exempts the Homer Port and Harbor and lands immediately adjacent necessary for normal Port operations from the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area.

The change is in accordance with the existing Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Plan that states in the introduction that it does not apply to municipal lands.

I don't know why this exemption was never put into law before now. But I can tell you that without it the Port, the City, our members, and the economic health of Homer have already suffered.

Please know that the City and the Chamber very much value the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area as the lifeblood of our economy and crown jewel of our community.

However, with the exemption, the City would be able to carry on the kinds of operations that a vibrant and productive port would normally be able to offer. The Port of Homer and Marine Trades in the area are vital components of the local economy. This exemption would allow the full use of the capabilities of both to benefit the full spectrum of business in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Lavrakas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jim Lavrakas / Executive Director