

## Testimony to Senate Finance Committee

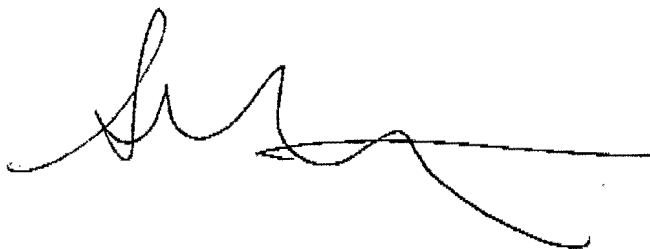
HB266, 03/20/14

- For the record, I am an employee of the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve (henceforth referred to as Reserve) through ADFG-SPORTFISH (henceforth SportFish). I am speaking today from the perspective of a concerned citizen.
- I am extremely grateful for your and your staff's support and leadership to preserve the funding levels for RESERVE under SPORTFISH portion of the OB
- I want to encourage you to maintain this funding amendment in the budget as you close out.
- Cutting the RESERVE from the budget, in my opinion, is a narrow sighted decision.
- The \$175k is the entirety of state match required to receive larger federal grants from NOAA and other sources.
- The multiplier effect on this match brings in over \$1m in federal funding through SPORTFISH, for which a 14% administration charge is applied for all incoming funding that offsets the GF applied to RESERVE.
- I want to stress that if the match were cut, this is not just slash a budget- it will result in complete closure of the Reserve and would have significant financial strings attached for the state of Alaska.
- SPORTFISH would default on their agreement terms with NOAA and could be responsible for reimbursing the current market value of RESERVE property investments, including a portion of AIOVC, the modular facility on Kachemak Drive , and Bay Av lab storage facility- to name a few. This amount is likely to be in the millions of dollars.
- Further, using federal funds RESERVE contributes \$133k annually to the operation of AIOVC, which serves 75,000 visitors per year. There is currently no alternative building partner that could fulfill that obligation.
- In closing, I encourage you to preserve the \$175k in the budget for the RESERVE. With this funding the State is able to leverage larger money from federal grants that has a community-wide multiplier benefitting youth and adult education, fisheries, infrastructure and tourism. Additionally this continuation would prevent further significant debt by the State of Alaska by alleviating the potential responsibility for property investment payback.

Stacey Buckelew

Resident

Homer, AK



*Senate Finance, HB266*

- For the record, I am an employee of KBRR through ADFG-SFD. I am speaking today from the perspective of a concerned citizen.
- The Reserve is made up of NOAA Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the State of Alaska, and Council of local community members. All three partners are essential for the mission of the Reserve to succeed.
- I want to thank of the people who committed time and tireless energy to put the funding for the Reserve back into the State budget. I encourage you to honor that hard work and keep the funding in the budget which will match a large, sustaining, grant from NOAA.
- When fully funded, the Reserve provides Education and Outreach, Research results, and Training to serve the public, schools, coastal decision-makers, and natural resource agencies in the State of Alaska.
- In 2013:
  - The education program served over 4,000 students, teachers, and visiting public. We also outreach vital information on harvested species in the region.
  - The coastal training program reached 400 coastal professionals by providing targeted needs-based trainings. Such as such as ArcGIS to ADF&G biologists in the lower Kenai Peninsula region.
  - The research program provided information requested by coastal decision-makers on sea-level change, coastal erosion, and ocean circulation patterns. Additional ongoing studies of great interest include: habitat requirements for juvenile salmon, clam and crab life history information, monitoring for harmful algal blooms, and marine invasive species.
- I thank our local representatives in the Kenai Peninsula, the City of Homer, and our Reserve Community Council for their tireless work in putting the State funding for the Reserve back into the budget. I ask you to please honor all that work and allow the Reserve to continue to serve the State of Alaska.

Angela M. Doroff

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March 17, 2014

Dear Senator Kelly:

The Alaska Marine Safety Education Association [AMSEA] is well known and respected all around Alaska for delivering effective, hands-on training to commercial fishermen, youth and the general public. They have helped significantly reduce fatality rates and losses on Alaska waters by training over 200,000 people in over 100 of our communities. As a commercial fisherman and mariner in Alaska since 1971, I have made use of their training many times.

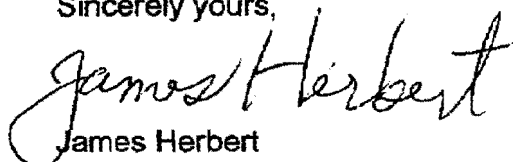
AMSEA economically performs a valuable service not duplicated by any other state program. The fees I pay to register my commercial fishing vessel with the state have contributed to the past funding of AMSEA by the Department of Commerce, Community & Regional Affairs [DCCED]. I assume these fees have kept AMSEA funding revenue neutral. If these fees go elsewhere in the system, where will I get the Coast Guard approved training AMSEA provides?

Base funding of AMSEA is \$196,900. Given the importance and reach of subsistence and commercial fishing across Alaska, this is money well spent. When one considers the expenditures on search and rescue and the grim consequences of fatalities and accidents on the water, this preventative approach is a viable and sensible approach.

I believe AMSEA gives excellent value to the Alaska public for the money it receives. I do not think it is wise to transfer funding to the capital budget. Please preserve the base funding of \$196,900 in your FY2015 operating budget. AMSEA's effective education and hands-on training is the best way to change behavior and prevent accidents and fatalities on Alaska's waters.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our citizens.

Sincerely yours,

  
James Herbert