

Senate Hearing on SR 5**March 29, 2013****3:30pm****Angie Whitman; Bethel, AK**

Senator Micciche, Senate District O, Soldotna, thank you for introducing this resolution on the Senate Floor, you are very gracious for doing so. My name is Angie Whitman, I live and work in Bethel, and I am a constituent of Senator Hoffman, Senate District S. I am representing myself, but there are so many others who are in my situation. I'm fortunate enough to be taking a class on the state of Alaska legislature as a student with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Thank you very much for this opportunity to be heard.

I am speaking in support of your Senate Resolution 5, and I'd like to bring my viewpoint on this resolution. The issue I bring up is one of injustice. One group is legally allowed to waste our salmon resource, while we on the Kuskokwim were severely restricted, issued citations, made to appear in court, and paid fines.

It is great to have this resolution for the reduction of salmon bycatch. It is too bad that other areas of the state were affected by the incredible bycatch numbers. We have had to fight for reduction of interception of our salmon resources way back in 2004, regarding area M, and here, just a few years later, for the high-seas trawl fisheries waste – termed bycatch.

It is too bad that we have to place so much attention on this problem, because we have so many other problems which need our time and attention; such as fuel prices that go through our roofs, literally; for fuel and electricity.

I want to word my statements in such a way as to be resonating in your memories that maybe you won't sleep at night until this problem of injustice is corrected.

We are trying to assure that we have our dried fish, and other sustenance which Chinook salmon provide for us. You cannot put a dollar value on it, because Walmart, AC, or

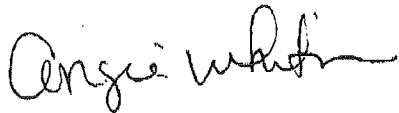
Costco do not sell the bounty that Chinook provides for us, and no fishery disaster declaration can replace or does, because those declarations only try to replace business associated loss.

There is no business loss to me, or for many hundreds of people who went without Chinook last summer. I felt it, and so did many others. Are we able to make a claim for loss? No.

While there is waste of our salmon resource occurring on the high-seas we were told to conserve – do not go out fishing, there are low numbers of returning Chinook salmon.

We the people of the region must have our resources returned to us. To those who hold votes in the legislature, please vote to pass Senate Resolution 5. It is a resolution worthy which would benefit residents of this state the people of the Kuskokwim region find they are a member of. Sometimes I wonder why we are a member of this state, when it seems the legislature doesn't seem to notice the high prices of fuel, groceries, airfare, and life loss due to alcohol and drug abuse and the lack of relevant historic education in the schools, but we are here far away in a roadless, land which we love. Please put an end to the waste of our precious salmon resource. This resolution is a start.

Thank you for your time, your hard work to represent the people of the state. Godspeed to you and the legislature to help bring justice to the people of our region, and if you have any questions for me I'd be glad to answer them.



Angie Whitman
PO Box 2193
Bethel, AK 99559
(907) 543-4268