



Cordova District Fishermen United
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February 18, 2016

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Chairwoman Stutes and Committee Members,

Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU) represents the fishing families in Prince William Sound and the Copper River region of Alaska. It is our mission to preserve & promote the commercial fishing industry and fishing resources of our region for the mutual benefit of generations of fishermen. The majority of our members are Alaskans whose income depends almost entirely on the commercial salmon industry.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to provide you with a definitive industry position on this bill, as full comprehension of its implications are challenging to process in the short time frame and the scope of the fiscal crisis facing the state.

Our industry is composed of a myriad of small business men and women that often have the slimmest of margins to operate on. The increase to the Fisheries Business Tax and Fisheries Resource Landing Tax as proposed in HB251/SB135 Fish Tax will have direct impact on these small businesses.

We believe the commercial salmon fishermen in our region already contribute significantly to the state and the region in which we operate, however we recognize the fiscal position of state.

That said, CDFU does not support the proposed fishing industry tax alone as a solution to the state of Alaska's fiscal crises. Furthermore, we think that a suite of taxes levied only upon resource industries, Fishing, Mining, and Tourism, though fair and balanced will have little impact on the overall state fiscal situation of a \$3.5 billion deficit.

Our position will further develop as the conversation continues amongst our industry and Legislature. We are very appreciative of your commitment to directly engage our industry and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alexis Cooper", is written over a horizontal line.

Alexis Cooper, Executive Director
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Director@cdfu.org