



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

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To Whom It May Concern,

We, the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee, are writing you with regard to support for House Bill 137, as well as support for the general concept of raising license and tag fees. On February 2, 2016 the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted in unanimous support of HB137 and further supported adding language for an intensive management stamp as well as resident tag fees. The advisory committee felt sportsmen and women have long shouldered the financial burden of managing our fish and game. It is only appropriate in this climate of state austerity that sportsmen and women step forward to help fund the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and to allow the department to fully capture all Pitman-Roberts funds available to the state.

It is time that Alaskan residents shoulder their fair share of the economic burden associated with the scientific management of our fish and game species. An increase in resident license fees and the establishment of resident tag fees would go a long way to not only make up current budget shortfalls, but to also fund the department into the future. Nonresident license and tag fees should similarly be increased for the same reason. The advisory committee feels it is important that increases to nonresident tag fees be substantial in light of similar fees that other states charge for the same species and the unique nature of certain species only available in Alaska.

We feel the legislature has an obligation to act on HB137 based on the current budget crisis and the support generated by a broad and comprehensive coalition of sportsman's groups who speak for the outdoor community. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joel Doner, Chair
Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee