

January 28, 2016

To the Members of the Alaska Legislature:

We are young fishermen from across Alaska. As fishermen, we are rooted in, dedicated to and reliant on the health of our coastal communities and marine ecosystems. And they rely on us — to be good providers and marine stewards.

Our generation faces many challenges to building successful fishing businesses. Some of these we accept as the fishing way of life, but other challenges are new and daunting: higher-than-ever costs to enter our fisheries, increasingly restrictive financing options, stock declines — and the continued outmigration of permits and quota from Alaska communities. These issues have compounding consequences: the loss of our economic self-sufficiency, professional development, food security, and heritage.

As leaders and policy makers you have the opportunity to consider concrete options for improving and protecting community access to local fisheries. It is imperative that Alaska develop long-term tools for anchoring fishing access in communities and in Alaska, an essential piece of the state's economic stability and community well being. Permit banks are one option, and a strong and practical mechanism to revitalize fishing communities. As the future leaders of Alaskan fisheries, we urge you to consider this and other viable tools for ensuring a strong fishing future for Alaska's coastal communities.

Despite the challenges we face, we continue to build our businesses. Fishing is integral to our livelihood and to Alaska's well being. Please help us to ensure that the next generation of Alaskans has access to Alaska's fisheries.

Sincerely,

Name: Elsa Sebastian  
Hometown: Sitka  
Fishery: SE Power Troll

Name: Hannah Heimbuch  
Hometown: Homer  
Fishery: Cook Inlet Drift, Gulf Longline

Name: Thomas Emerson  
Hometown: Juneau  
Fishery: Power - Troll

Name: Alec Schramek  
Hometown: Petersburg  
Fishery: Power troll / Cucumber Dive

Name: Iris Nash  
Hometown: Juneau AK  
Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Chris Nash  
Hometown: Juneau AK  
Fishery: Salmon Trolling

Name: Kristy Crump  
Hometown: Valdez, AK  
Fishery: PWS purse seining

Name: David Fleming  
Hometown: Anchorage AK  
Fishery: PWS setnet

Name: Alexander Smith  
Hometown: Alexnaqik AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Hunter Davis  
Hometown: Juneau  
Fishery: SE seine / CRAB

Name: Aaron Johnston  
Hometown: Eagle River, AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Tared Oien  
Hometown: Ketchikan, AK  
Fishery: Southeast Salmon

Name: Sean Houk  
Hometown: Ketchikan  
Fishery: Troll / LL

Name: Billy Haylen  
Hometown: Homer  
Fishery: Direct markets

Name: Steve Johnson  
Hometown: Sitka / Wrangell  
Fishery: Tender

Name: Patrick Lane  
Hometown: Homer  
Fishery: Tender / longline

Name: Darren Platt  
Hometown: Kodiak  
Fishery: Salmon, Herring

Name: Hugh Fleming  
Hometown: Petersburg  
Fishery: S.E. seine / BB Drift

Name: Tori Connor  
Hometown: Petersburg  
Fishery: S.E. PWS Seim - Long Line  
SETROLL

Name: Melissa Nagamine  
Hometown: Ketchikan  
Fishery: SE Seine

Name: SOMMERS COLE  
Hometown: JUNEAU, AK  
Fishery: SE GILLNET

Name: Amanda Johnston  
Hometown: Homer, AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Brant Widness  
Hometown: Ketchikan, AK  
Fishery: Troll / Dive

Name: Amy Schaub  
Hometown: Homer  
Fishery: SEINE / Longline

Name: Margaret Borsch  
Hometown: Homer  
Fishery: gillnet and setnet Bristol Bay

Name: Jonah N. Yakunin  
Hometown: Nikolaevsk, AK  
Fishery: gillnet and longline

Name: Bernina Venusa  
Hometown: Dillingham, AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay

Name: Gary Cline  
Hometown: Dillingham, AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay Salmon



Name: Forest Sebastian  
Hometown: PSG  
Fishery: Troll

Name: Hayley Hoover  
Hometown: Cordova AK  
Fishery: Drift Gillnet

Name: Andrew Scudder  
Hometown: Boise, ID  
Fishery: PWS Seine

Name: Melanie Brown  
Hometown: Juneau, AK  
Fishery: Bristol Bay Sockeye

Name: Mickey Sharp  
Hometown: Gwin Hills  
Fishery: North Pacific Fishery

Name: Carina Nichols  
Hometown: Sitka  
Fishery: troll

Name: Darin Gilman  
Hometown: Cordova, AK  
Fishery: PWS

Name: Sophie Nethercut  
Hometown: Sitka  
Fishery: Salmon troll

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fishery: \_\_\_\_\_