



Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

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April 3, 2016

House Resources Committee

Representative Nageak Co-Chair; and

Representative Talerico, Co-Chair

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 124

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Resources Committee Members,

RE: OPPOSE HB 112

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is opposed to committee substitute HB 112 version P that will be in front of you today. First we must put on record that **we oppose Administrative Order (AO) 279 moving functions of CFEC to ADF&G.**

CSHB112 ver P sets executive compensation for the CFEC commissioners by Statute. **This seems extremely inappropriate to set salaries by statute as well as the number of hours that may be worked.** In addition, you are taking away the Commissioners "step increases" that have been earned by service to the State. The more appropriate way is to set a budget for the CFEC commissioner's salaries and then let the Commissioners and agency have the flexibility to find the structure/ combination of hours among Commissioners that is most appropriate to serve the state and functions of the agency best.

The legislative audit finished last fall suggested moving the commissioners to part time and that is not what we are opposing here. It is setting in statute the hours that may be worked, the salary where a long time state employee's recognition (steps) are taken away and no opportunity to earn that recognition moving forward.

In addition to cutting their salary by removing their "steps" you are also taking away their benefits and restricting the number of hours that can be worked while having to now pay their own health and life insurance out of a significantly reduced income.

CFEC Commissioners are judicial lawyers with a specialized knowledge/background. Quick back of the envelope calculations reduce the commissioners salary by at least \$11 - \$17 dollars an hour plus the loss of benefits.

SEAFA would like to take this opportunity and state that we believe the savings to the state that AO 279 would generate is possible while maintaining CFEC as an independent agency. **The Legislative Audit recommends and provides significant justification for the importance of maintaining CFEC as an independent agency.** Please call the office if you would like more information or testimony on our views on the importance of maintaining CFEC as an independent agency.

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear/multi-species commercial fishing association representing our 300+ members involved in salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries in Southeast Alaska and longline fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Hansen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathy Hansen
Executive Director