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Dear Sirs and Madams,

Thank you for your continued support of early education for our most vulnerable citizens, those ages 0-5. Please continue supporting programs such as Parents As Teachers, Best Beginnings, and CCR&R. As a mother, grandmother, and Native Alaskan, I have seen what a positive difference these supports make. Our children are our future. We need to continue to support them if we want our future to be healthy.

Kindly,

Mrs. Nikki Love

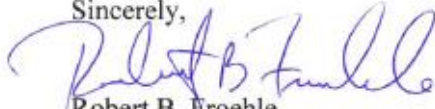
March 7, 2017

Dear Rep. Paul Seaton and Rep. Neal Foster,

My name is Bob Froehle and I am the Superintendent of the Nome Youth Facility (NYF). I am writing on behalf of the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) in Nome. First of all, I'd like to thank all of the legislators for your service addressing our State's fiscal challenge. I am writing to testify in support of HB57.

I have watched NACTEC grow from its infancy into the dynamic program that it is today providing vocational training to the youth of our region. As Superintendent of the Youth Facility I have had our youth enrolled in classes at NACTEC to include Heavy Equipment Operation, Welding, Carpentry and Small Engine Repair. All of these classes were well received by our youth and gave them some direction for their future. Recently I ran into a former resident of the Youth Facility and she told me that she was going to Job Corp in the fall to study Heavy Equipment Operation. I wished her well and congratulated her. I couldn't help but think that her time at NYF was well spent and in my mind I was thanking NACTEC for their part in giving this young lady something to strive for. It's hard to say how many others who I haven't spoken to are headed in the right direction with bright futures thanks to NACTEC. Everyone deserves a chance to succeed and NACTEC provides that chance for youth throughout all of Northwest Alaska. They need to be here. They need to be funded.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Froehle

Nome Youth Facility - Superintendent



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

Mailing Address: PO Box 20229, Juneau AK 99802-0229
Physical Address: 410 Calhoun Ave Ste 101, Juneau AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-2820 **Fax:** (907) 463-2545
Email: ufa@ufafish.org **Website:** www.ufafish.org

March 8, 2017

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Seaton, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau AK 99801

RE: Support for ADF&G Budget and Amendments

Dear Co-Chairmen Foster and Seaton, and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is a statewide commercial fishing trade association composed of 34 commercial fishing organizations representing fishermen who participate in state and federal waters fisheries.

UFA supports the FY18 ADFG operating budget as amended by the sub-committee and adopted by the full finance committee on February 27. These amendments restore in-season management and assessment projects that have been cut or significantly under-funded since FY16 and will help give fishermen more access to fisheries. The changes also reduce the need for new ADFG test fisheries, which are effectively a tax on the seafood industry. Fish & Game collected \$2.8 million in test fishery monies in FY16, which directly reduced opportunity for fishermen and coastal communities.

Conservative management due to a lack of funding for assessment projects results in loss of income to commercial fishermen, processors, businesses, and communities. Lack of fishing opportunity reduces fishing tax revenues for the state general fund. It can also have long term, damaging effects on fisheries statewide, due to a lack of data for stock assessments and other critical analyses.

UFA worked with PSPA, Icicle Seafoods, and other processors in consultation with Fish & Game, to identify the assessment projects that are most critical to providing in-season information. This will allow fishery managers to prosecute fisheries throughout the state in a manner that best protects stocks while maximizing harvests.

The Fish & Game budget sub-committee did a great job finding revenue without using UGF funds. As we know, there are limited revenue sources available, so everyone worked to avoid using any additional UGF funding.

In summary, we would appreciate your support for these amendments, which will allow continued access to fisheries and create economic opportunity in coastal communities, without placing additional burdens on the state budget during these lean times.

UFA supports the FY18 Fish & Game operating budget as amended, to help ensure healthy fisheries statewide.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator