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FROM THE DESK OF:
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April 11, 2017

Representative.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov

Representative Louise Stutes
Chairperson, House Fisheries Committee

Re: HB 188; Act to Establish Regional Fisheries Trust

Dear Representative Stutes:

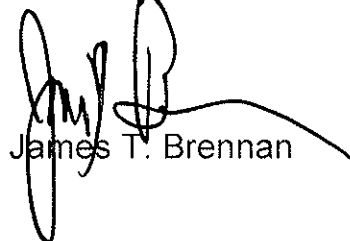
I am an Anchorage attorney and have been engaged in civil practice in Alaska since 1977. My varied practice has included fisheries law and constitutional law, and I have had substantial appellate experience, including numerous appearances in the Alaska Supreme Court.

I have reviewed HB 188 in detail, including its provisions concerning formation of regional fisheries trusts to hold commercial fishing entry permits and to authorize leases of such permits to persons engaged in various Alaska salmon fisheries and gear types. I have specifically reviewed these provisions for their compliance with various federal and state constitutional provisions which might be raised to challenge the fisheries trust system to be established by HB 188.

In my opinion, the provisions of HB 188 are consistent with both the federal and Alaska constitutions, and would withstand constitutional challenge.

If you have any questions concerning this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James T. Brennan

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