

Cody Grussendorf

From: Stephen Giesbrecht <sgiesbrecht@petersburgak.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:02 AM
To: Cody Grussendorf
Cc: Debra Thompson
Subject: SB63 Written Testimony

Senator Bishop;

The Petersburg Borough is an Alaskan community that prides itself on managing our own needs. The Fisheries Business Tax makes this possible, and Senate Bill 63 is contrary to this philosophy.

The Borough has received over \$13.5M in Fisheries Business tax receipts over the last 19 years. This averages over \$711,000 a year that is generated by our fisherman, through our local processing companies. These funds created in our Borough are used to maintain and upgrade the very infrastructure needed by the Community to support the industry itself. This includes the Harbors, Emergency Services, our Library, Schools, and Parks & Recreation facilities. Our fisherman pride themselves on bringing their catches back to the community where their hard work can be used to make their homes a better place for themselves and their families. In short, the program works.

Senate Bill 63 takes this away. If this Bill is signed into law, the Petersburg Borough will be forced to raise taxes and moorage rates. This will result in boats and their families leaving our community. Each of these small businesses gone are a negative impact and a loss to the local and regional economy.

We urge you to vote no on Senate Bill 63. A "NO" vote is good for small business, Alaskan communities and the promotion of a strong economy throughout the State.

Respectfully,

Stephen Giesbrecht
Borough Manager
Petersburg Borough