

Cody Grussendorf

From: donald Torgeson <highliner47@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: SHARED FISHERIES BUSINESS TAX

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March 20, 2019

Senator Click Bishop, Chair

Senator Chris Birch, Vice Chair

Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Dear Senators,

As a local commercial Fisherman, I am outraged by the Governor's proposal to steal the Shared Fisheries Business Tax and the Shared Resource Landing Tax from the local government entities. These taxes are designed as a shared tax in order for local governments to provide services, strengthen infrastructure and build capacity for the fishing industry to operate safely and effectively in the coastal communities.

The Seafood industry directly employs more workers than any other industry in Alaska and is the third largest overall job creator in the state – it is the economic foundation of many rural communities. The shared taxes allow the local governments to operate clinics, maintain roads, maintain harbors and other mandatory needs.

These shared tax funds help provide services such as medical clinics and health and safety services. They provide funds for infrastructure to safely harbor our vessels, unload our catch and get our resources to market, just to name a few. To levy such a burden on an a long serving Alaskan industry is unconscionable. Many of the Alaskan fisherman that will be impacted by this proposal are generational and have a long history of creating their livelihood on Alaska's fine seas.

Elimination of the shared revenue will directly increase expenses to our commercial fisherman including higher moorage fees, personal property taxes and many other unintended consequences. As a result, the State will start to see the selling of independent permits and vessels, primarily to larger out of state operations that will have the capital to exporting our resources with minimal benefit to the communities.

Alaska's coastal communities face a triple threat from the Governor's proposal to preempt the collection by municipalities of the Shared Fisheries Business Tax, and the Shared Fisheries Resource Landing Tax. The loss of revenue is clearly important, but the effects on the seafood industry dire.

Sincerely,

DONALD JESKE

DUANE TORGESON

BEAVER STRELOW

MATT KONOSKE

PAUL DAU

JESSE JESKE

KEITH GRIEINER

GALE EVANVLESTOMP

JEFFERY STEWART

DANNY WHITSON

KRISTI GRIEINER

MIKE SUTTON

DONALD TORGESON

NIKE DIVERTY

AARON HAMMOCK

PAT PARRISH

ROLLANDA JESKE

ALLEN HAMMOCK