

Good Afternoon Committee Members,

My name is Glorianne Wollen. I am the Harbormaster here in Petersburg. I am also a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Alaskan who grew up fishing aboard my father's commercial fishing boat and am partner in a Bering Sea commercial crab operation.

I appreciate the chance to go on record today adamantly opposing SB 63. The Governor's proposed bill repealing the fisheries business tax allocation and revenue sharing with municipalities for fishery resource landing tax is appalling and devastating for coastal communities who rely on this program to support infrastructure and quality of life programs in our State. I reference my youth to explain a lifelong experience with paying what is commonly known as RAW FISH TAXES as well as understanding the history of when and why these shared fisheries tax came to be.

As a kid, my father explained the history and concept of resource landing taxes and how because we get the opportunity to harvest seafood we owe it to the State and our communities to share in the bounty. Even as a child I understood the concept of "we are all in this together" and that our government had faith in us by giving us the tools in which to help take better care of ourselves. We are proud of the partnerships that are created amongst the fishing fleet and the state and the communities in which we land our product.

As the Harbormaster, I can testify to the importance of these funds to a community like Petersburg. Our local government spreads these funds around by first budgeting a healthy portion to the our General Fund to offset essential needs such as Emergency Services, School, Library, Parks and Recreation & elderly health care. The rest of the monies go directly to the Harbor Enterprise Fund to support continuing maintenance and upgrades to aging waterfront infrastructure. These funds are put into reserve and used as match moneys for State and Federal grant programs... we use these reserves very wisely.

As most Alaskans understand, Ports and Harbors play a critical economic role by giving safe haven to enable trade, transportation, commercial fishing, tourism, recreational and subsistence opportunities to occur along the vast coast of Alaska. Repealing the State's partnership of refunds and revenue sharing with municipalities threatens the prosperity and health of Alaska's coastal communities & fishing ports.... not to mention devastating the morale of fishermen who have spent their life plying the waters of Alaska doing good and honest work on behalf of their families, their communities and our great state. I encourage members to vote no<sup>014</sup> Senate Bill 63!

Thank you very much for understanding the importance of this issue & allowing me to testify today.

Glorianne Wollen,  
Petersburg, Alaska