



P.O. Box 714  
Ward Cove, AK 99928  
(907) 220-7630  
[info@seiners.net](mailto:info@seiners.net) [www.seiners.net](http://www.seiners.net)

April 1, 2019

Representative Louise Stutes  
Chair House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol Room 406  
Juneau AK, 99801

**RE: HB 65 — Fish Tax: Repeal Muni Refunds/Rev. Share**

Dear Representative Stutes and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is a non-profit organization representing permit holders in the SE salmon seine fishery. SEAS has been an advocate for the fleet, the resource, and coastal communities of SE Alaska for over 50 years.

SEAS would like to go on the record opposing HB 65 – Fish Tax: Repeal Municipal Refunds/Revenue Sharing.

Coastal communities use this tax not only for harbor and port infrastructure, but also local services. Many communities have already undertaken infrastructure improvement to ports, harbors, and schools, knowing that this revenue source, that had long term stability, could pay for bonds that were issued. Pulling the rug out from underneath these communities will start a cascading domino effect of negative consequences for employment, growth, and economic stability. This is the exact opposite outcome the Governor says he is trying to provide for Alaska.

The loss of this revenue source throws into serious question the ability of communities to continue to support the commercial fishing industry with appropriate and necessary services for fishermen to deliver their products; thereby adding even more flux and instability into an industry that inherently has volatility built in.

We would ask you not to pass this or any legislation that would eliminate or reduce these revenue sharing taxes, or that would increase “Fish taxes” and designate the increase to the state.

Sincerely,

Susan Doherty, Executive Director