

Matt Gruening

From: Brian Lynch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2019 4:37 PM
To: House Fisheries
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: Brian Lynch letter in opposition to HB 65

Dear Representative Stutes, Chair, and Members of the House Fisheries Committee

I am a 40 year resident of Alaska, with 38 of those years living in Petersburg.

I am strongly opposed to HB 65—Fish Tax; Repeal Municipal Refunds/Revenue Sharing.

I agree with virtually all the points presented to you in letters from SEAS, UFA, the City of Unalaska and the Bristol Bay Borough. The repeal of the fish tax revenue sharing would result in a loss of \$890k to Petersburg's projected FY 20 budget. A revenue loss of this magnitude would be devastating to not only Petersburg's economy, whose economic lifeblood is the commercial seafood industry, but to the economies of all coastal Alaska communities.

This tax is used for both port and harbor infrastructure and maintenance and to support local services such as education, street and road maintenance, etc. The reduction in port and harbor funding would negatively impact improvements to our harbors which, in turn, would most certainly have a direct negative effect on the 800+ commercial fishing businesses now operating out of Petersburg.

The net result of passage of this bill would have the complete opposite effect of the "No New Taxes" mantra the Governor espoused during his campaign. The passage of HB 65 would necessitate increasing local municipal taxes to cover the lost revenues. In spite of the Governor's refusal to implement new revenue sources, HB 65 would, in fact, be a new revenue source for the State's general fund in, what I call, a "Revenue Grab." It would be a classic example of "Robbing Peter (me) to pay Paul (general fund)".

Contrary to the Governor's as well as AFP's opinion, not all tax reductions enhance business opportunity. HB 65 would do nothing to enhance business because it doesn't actually reduce taxes that are currently levied against existing businesses. Frankly, I don't get it and I urge you not to pass HB 65 or any other legislation that may be proposed to eliminate these currently shared taxes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brian Lynch

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Petersburg, AK 99833

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Roni Carmon
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: HB 65
COMMITTEE: HFSH **DATE:** 4-4-19

I'm asking you all to please collect the 44 billion dollars from the outside groups that want our fish so bad.

This is the amount of money that needs to be put back into the General Fund that's missing.

The coastal conservation is doing this to every state in the United State and is breaking the backs of the commercial fishery.

This is a small amount to a worldwide organization. They want our fish. This is what you need to collect.

In short you are giving a resource away for free, so what I just told you.

The commercial fishery is your only income in the fishing income world to the borough and state.

The commercial fisherman in Alaska, Kenai Peninsula Borough has had over 13 million fish taken away from them fisherman every year and the state general fund also. The sport fishery has taken that income, and none goes to the state or borough.

The dipnet fishery takes but gives nothing back.

Give the commercial fishery back their 100 million fishery and let the stock rebound. And get your 20 million back to the general fund each year.

In short, your industry will pay it way and the borough will get that income.

The borough receives no fish tax from the sport fishing association.

The borough receives no fish tax from the dipnet fishery on the Kenai Peninsula.

The sport fish association has been in a sunset for 20 years now. They get their guide license for free (fresh water and salt water).

The dipnet fishery gives nothing; but takes 7 million fish from the Kenai Peninsula commercial fish. That about 35 million dollars a year that goes nowhere. It used to go to the general fund. Those fish have been taken away from the General Fund since 1989 and borough.

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Fish and Game takes personal fishing licenses and they pay themselves and that not borough tax money.

So now the time to fix this mess. ADFG is the problem not the solution.

The Kenai Peninsula borough need to manage the local fisheries.

The local boroughs need to manage their own fishery for the health and welfare of the fish stock. To be control by the people of their boroughs and all over the state.

The state ADFG is being controlled by the coastal conservation association, a world-wide group of companies that has no interests in Alaska but to take our fish. And they pay nothing to Alaska.