

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) expresses our support for HB 185: “An Act relating to the registration of commercial vessels; and providing for an effective date.”

While we support the reasons behind the Derelict Vessel Bill (SB 92), we believe commercial fishing vessels that already register with the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) should not have to be registered with the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles as it appears redundant and could create a potential hardship on Bristol Bay resident commercial fishers.

Many of BBEDC’s CDQ communities do not have a DMV, and in the communities that do, there is minimal staff and availability to assist commercial fishers. While local fishers are trying their best to comply with the current law, traveling between communities creates additional expenses and will be a burden for many. Also, the majority of commercial fishers obtain a vessel license through CFEC annually and are accustomed to the process. Requiring that they also register with the DMV is repetitive and puts a strain on commercial fishers with limited resources.

Adoption of HB 185 will meet the intent of SB 92, and will alleviate unnecessary steps and expenses for commercial fishers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NVC', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Norman Van Vactor
Chief Executive Officer