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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Giessel:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to sportfish hatchery bond surcharges.

This bill would allow the Department of Fish and Game to continue collecting a reduced sportfishing license surcharge beyond the date it is set to expire. Currently, the sportfishing facility surcharge is collected in order to pay off bonds issued to construct the Ruth Burnett hatchery in Fairbanks and the William Jack Hernandez hatchery in Anchorage. The surcharge also funds Chinook and Coho salmon production for southeast Alaska, which will be lost when the surcharge sunsets.

The statutes authorizing the bonds and the surcharge will sunset on January 1 of the calendar year following the repayment of the bond obligations, which is anticipated to be later in 2020. This bill would retain the statute authorizing the department to collect the surcharge but at a reduced rate. The surcharge revenue would be used for ongoing maintenance and repairs at state sport fish hatchery facilities as well as enhancement of sport fisheries in southeast Alaska, directly benefiting sport anglers. This is an effective way to support economic development with only a small remaining surcharge for Alaskan residents, accordingly, I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure