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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 28, 2021

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

Dear President Micciche:

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 to collect a sportfishing license surcharge that expired on January 1, 2021. The expired sportfishing facility surcharge was collected in order to pay off bonds issued to construct and renovate two hatcheries. The surcharge also funded increases in hatchery production in Southeast Alaska. The statutes authorizing the bonds and the surcharge sunsetted following the repayment of the bond obligations, but the funds collected provided significant benefits to Alaska's sport fishing community. This bill would reinstate statutory authority for the department to collect a reduced surcharge to fund ongoing maintenance and operation of the department's sport fishing hatchery facilities, so they can continue providing hatchery salmon for sport fishing in Southeast Alaska. This is an effective way to support economic development with only a small surcharge; 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