

From: [Nancy Hillstrand](#)
To: [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please do not jeopardize our economy based on food security
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So much is invested Economically in the Kachemak Bay Area devoted to the food web and rich fisheries. We would be placing our entire economy at risk to drill or frack in this area. Homer is known as the halibut Capital with a very active halibut fishery because we are on the road system for shipping purposes. This fishery has thrived since the 1980s supporting the working waterfront. we would be placing this area in jeopardy to drill or frack in Kachemak Bay

This Kachemak Bay Area has a large economy and infrastructure that thrives based on recognition of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area. Over 90% of shellfish in all of Cook Inlet were caught in this Bay. Astonishing productivity for fisheries is due to the way the currents flow in from the Gulf of Alaska and form gyres that catch nutrients for the food web making it a rich productive bay. This bay has some vast and rare salt grass nurseries where many species spawn. Because of this rich productive area The Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Reserve chose to be stationed here, the largest in the nation. NOAA chose this bay over all others in Alaska for its NOAA Habitat Focus Area, the Islands And Oceans is a large infrastructure exhibit and visitors center located in Homers Kachemak bay as the base for the Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge. This is a western hemispheric shorebird network stopover that hosts a large shorebird festival each year bringing annual revenue to our local towns. The University of Alaska and NOAA Kasistna Bay Laboratory located on the Seldovia side is a marine science center for undergraduates to come and gain credits in the natural sciences doing research in this productive bay and non government organizations like The Center For Alaskan Coastal Studies have educational outposts for youth in Recognition of this rich area. This came up over forty years ago and it was decided it was too risky to drill for oil in this cradle of our fisheries. So many livelihoods would be placed at risk.
Thank you for recognizing this special area of food security.

Sincerely
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