



March 11, 2025

RE: Letter in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 1

Dear House Fisheries Chair Stutes:

I am writing to you as an owner of Horizon West Fishing Adventures - a four boat charter fishing lodge located in Sitka, AK.

There is nothing we enjoy more than sharing an Alaskan experience with guests who choose to do it with a fishing rod in their hand. On an annual basis, we get to experience generations of anglers that bond over a trip to Alaska. We are grateful to provide that opportunity, yet understand that something needs to change to better manage the fish resources to provide those same opportunities in the future.

We appreciate the author of HCR1 recognizing that the charter industry contributes "millions of dollars to the state's economy." We have a deep understanding that a vibrant economy in the community in which we operate is instrumental to our success, which is why we go to great lengths to support local businesses. From directing our guests to local eateries to shopping locally first, we know that thriving businesses equals better experiences for our guests. We will be steadfast in our commitment to supporting the business community in Sitka hopefully for many years to come.

The charter industry depends on opportunities to catch fish. With those opportunities decreasing over the years due to depleting resources and tighter fishing regulations, I have a growing concern that a fishing trip to Alaska will be challenging to sell in the near future. Although we are in full support of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other public officials in their responsibility to regulate fish resources, this is only a tool to address the symptom of a greater problem. To get to the root of the problem regarding the resource itself, I believe in a collective effort to first fully understand the problem before creating goals and solutions. Passing HCR1 is a commitment to that collective and much needed effort.

Thank you for your leadership!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Nelson".

Josh Nelson, Owner

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Owners: Josh Nelson ~ Jill Nelson