

**HB**

**547**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

## First Committee of Referral

DATE: 4/2/96

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4-18-96

The Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 547(RES) am

Relating to a four-year moratorium on entry into Southeast Alaska dive fisheries; efd.

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
  - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
  - technical title
  - new: SCR# \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNING DP PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>					
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
		<i>[Signature]</i>		✓	
		<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
<b>CHAIR:</b>		<b>CHAIR:</b> <i>[Signature]</i>	✓		

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>FIG/CFEC</i>	<i>5/1/96</i>	✓	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

✓ PSG Mr. Michael Byrer - HB547  
Mr. Andrew Kittans - HB547  
Mr. Caley McClay - HB547

Want ID  
testify  
if possible

FBX John Ringstad SB 318 - observe

Mat-SJ Bill Van Dyke SB 319 - observe  
Av. Oil + Gas

Anc Capt Rich Graham

testify if possible  
HB59  
HB 200  
HB 265



TELECOPY COVER SHEET  
Ketchikan Legislative Information Office  
Office - (907) 225-9675 Fax - (907) 225-8546

TO: Sen. Resources Committee

ATTN: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: 465-3810 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Eric Hamilton PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: Testimony for HB 547

SENT: Date 4/17/96 Time 3:10 PM

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard \_\_\_\_\_ Hold for Pickup \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY:

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES  
(committee name)  
committee on BILL 547 DIVE FISH MORATORIUM, dated 4-17-96.  
bill/subject

I AM A KETCHIKAN RESIDENT AND ALASKA VOTER. HALF  
MY INCOME COMES FROM ALASKA DIVE FISHERIES. MOST

OF THAT IS FROM SEA URCHIN TEST HARVESTING. I ONLY  
'HAVE 1995 SEA CUCUMBER LANDINGS TO QUALIFY TO DIVE  
SEA URCHINS, THOUGH THAT IS MY FULL-TIME JOB. THERE  
IS A SMALL BUT VOCAL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REDUCE  
THE NUMBER OF CUKE PERMIT HOLDERS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE  
THE TIME TO COMPLAIN BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT WILLING  
TO GO WORK (WHATEVER THEY SAY OTHERWISE). I HAVE PERSON-  
ALLY INVITED THEM (SCOTT THOMAS, STEVE LACROIX, CLAY BEZNIK, etc.)  
TO WORK WITH ME BUT ALL DECLINE WITH EXCUSES. PLEASE  
INCLUDE THE TEST HARVEST AS A QUALIFIER FOR AN URCHIN  
PERMIT. I WORK FULL TIME TO MAKE A LIVING IN AK. AS  
CAN MOST ANYONE WHO WANTS TO NOW. IF THESE WHINERS  
GET THEIR WAY A LOT OF HARDWORKING ALASKANS WILL BE OUT  
OF WORK SO A FEW PART-TIMERS HAVE VALUABLE PERMITS  
TO SELL TO CALIFORNIANS!

Signed:

Phone: 225-5838

Testifier:

ERIC HAMILTON, SEA URCHIN TEST FISHER

Representing (Optional)

PO BOX 5838

Address KETCHIKAN 99901

Fax transmitted from Ketchikan Legislative Information Office

Phone: 225-0675 Fax: 225-2546

... WILL HARDLY EVER DIVE, THEY JUST WANT A

To Sen. Loren Leman  
Chairman Resources Committee  
4/15/96

Dear Mr. Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity to once more comment on S.B. 547. Time is short so I'll be brief. This is I believe a very dangerous bill. It sets a precedent never before seen in Alaska or anywhere else for that matter. It gives property rights to a very valuable fisheries resource, sea urchins, to individuals who have never participated in the harvest of this resource. The precedent doesn't stop there however. The bill lumps four dive fisheries into one. The net result is that someone participating in one of the four would qualify in all four whether or not they had participated in that fishery or not.

The estimated X-vessel value of sea urchins alone is estimated at a potential of 30 million dollars annually for the Southeast region alone. By contrast the Sitka Sound Herring Sackroe fishery this year was estimated at 16 million dollars X-vessel value. The 51 permits for this fishery are estimated to be worth between 400 and 500 thousand per permit. A sea urchin permit alone would be worth several hundred thousand dollars. This is fishing for windfall profits not fish.

Recently a limited access program was established for shrimp fishing in Southeast Alaska. I would be interested in knowing how many of these permits will be sold in the first month when they become transferable.

In these troubled times in the fishing industry these resources represent a way for fishing communities and fishermen to diversify. The resource would not be well used, in my opinion, to enrich a handful of divers intent on a windfall profit.

Yours



Matt Donohoe, Po. Box 3114 Sitka, Ak. 99835, Ph. 7476467

# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the RESOURCES  
(committee name)  
committee on HOUSE BILL 547, dated 4-12-96  
bill/subject

I AGREE WITH THE BILL IN REGARDS  
TO SEA CUCUMBER, GOEDUCKS AND ARAZONE,  
BUT NOT SEA URCHIN. THERE HASNT  
BEEN AN OPEN ACCESS SEA URCHIN OTHER  
THAN A TOLKEN SEASON INSITKA FOR APPROX.  
140 THOUSAND POUNDS. THE SEA URCHIN  
TEST FISHERY DIVERS HAVE DONE MORE  
TO DEVELOP THE SEA URCHIN THAN ANY  
OTHER DIVER GROUP ~~ARE~~ BUT SOME OF  
THESE DIVERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO  
PARTICIPATE BECAUSE THEY CHOSE ~~TO~~ NOT  
TO DIVE OTHER FISHERIES

Signed: Brian Robbers Phone: 886-6546  
BA Robbers  
Testifier

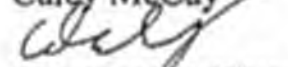
Representing (Optional)  
Box 777 METLAKATLA  
Address

Dear Resorce Committee Members

I would like to state a few facts based on the emotional testimony you heard yesterday. First off the issue concerning the eighteen Ocean Fresh divers, these individuals signed a contract with Ocean Fresh to do a test fishery not an open access fishery. this contract stated they would not get any points towards a limited entry permit or any moratorium. These individuals had many opportunities from 94-95 to participate in any of the dive fisheries and qualify for this moratorium, plus if rthey were truely serious about urchin diving they would have done this fishery in 92-93 which would also have qualified them for the moratorium. If this fishery is not put on moratorium this year after all this moratorium talk next you will turn into a circus fishery. with lots of people jumping in only to qualify for the moratorium.

Thank you

Caley McCay



Commercial Diver

Petersburg, AL

Bx 2142

772-4823

Michael J. Byrer  
P. O. Box 1325  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
(907)772-3384

To: Senate Resource Committee  
Re: CS For House Bill NO. 547

Dear Senate Committee Members,

My name is Michael Byrer, and I am currently a diver participating in the SE Alaska Sea Cucumber fishery. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinion on the dive fishery moratorium bill now in committee. I myself, along with every person that I know that now participates in all of the fisheries covered in this bill, strongly support this bill as it is written. We feel that any change in the language in this bill will seriously jeopardize the future of our fisheries.

During the teleconference that took place on April 12, 1996 we heard from divers who participated in the test fishery that would be shut out of the moratorium. Our position is that these people made a decision based on greed not to participate in any current open access dive fishery, and therefore should not be considered during discussion of the bill. They were all given a special exemption that would have allowed them to participate in sea cucumbers, geoducks, and abalone if they had so desired. They made a conscious decision to stay on the urchin grounds based solely on economics, and made no effort to get into other fisheries when given the opportunity. They talk about how they pioneered the urchin fishery, but this is only by default. Many Alaskan divers inquired about diving for Ocean Fresh, but were turned away for lack of experience. How are we supposed to get experience when we are turned away from the opportunity to learn under the controlled test fishery. These people were more than happy to take jobs from interested Alaskan divers, and now are screaming and crying and trying to destroy an opportunity for all divers now involved in these fisheries. Almost every person involved in current SE Alaska dive fisheries supports this bill as is. We would ask the committee, the Senate, and the Governor to all do what is right for all of Alaska.

By making any special exemption for these few opportunists, you would seriously damage the integrity of this bill, and would certainly erode the overwhelming support that this bill now enjoys. Everybody knows that we have a chance to secure a viable fishery, protect the stocks, and stop the rapid growth in these fisheries. If something is not done right now to stop the rise in participation, we will have essentially shot ourselves in the foot. Instead of dealing with 15 or so unhappy people, you will be dealing with hundreds. By passing HB 547 now, you will ensure that parameters will be in place to help Alaskan diver in conjunction with the Board of Fisheries develop a long term, economically sound fishery for everyone to enjoy. We implore you to do the right thing now in order to secure our future.

I thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
Michael J. Byrer

Andrew W. Kittama  
P.O. Box 1544  
Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Senate Resource Committee Members,

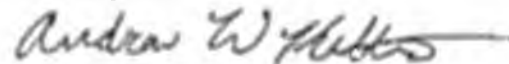
I am writing in support of HB 547. I believe voting yes is the only way to vote on this matter. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, State of Alaska Attorney General, Alaska House of Representatives, and vast majority of divers throughout Southeast Alaska have all supported this bill. Even the California based processor, Ocean Fresh Seafoods, has recently supported the bill. Any opposition for HB 547 is coming from two small factions.

First, there are those who are not active commercial divers, and logically will not qualify to fish under this temporary moratorium.

Second, there are a handful of divers that Ocean Fresh Seafoods brought into Alaska *specifically* to harvest urchins under a *private and exclusive* agreement. These divers signed a legal contract with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which specifically stated that their participation in this private test fishery would not in any way qualify them for a moratorium. These divers knew that this test fishery was only a single year project, after which they would have no right to any further open access urchin fishery of any kind.

If this bill fails, the cucumber and gooduck fisheries I currently participate in will be overrun with divers whose main concern is to qualify for a future moratorium. The result will be a loss of winter revenue for my family and more importantly harm Southeast Alaska aquatic resources. Please see through the smokescreen and support HB 547 as the dive industry has.

Thank you.



Andrew W. Kittama



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources  
 committee name  
 committee on HB 547, dated 4/12/96  
 bill/subject

My name is Grant Thompson, diver, capt. of own dive vessel. have harvested cucumbers since 1990. I represent many people who do not want any changes in the days that are fished. Sunday or Saturday openings would allow the "sport divers" with other jobs to take a large cut from people who are divers and depend on that industry for a living. We like it just the same. Any other opinion doesn't represent the majority of divers from Sitka.

Signed

Testifier

Grant Thompson  
 the majority opinion of Alaskan Harvest (not the presidents)

Representing (Optional)

333 Kathleen Sitka

Address

966-2309

Phone No.



Haley Ethelbach

Box 972

Petersburg AK 99833

907-772-4732

To: House Resource Committee;

I am writing to express my concerns of our dive fishery. Over the past three years I have seen a huge influx of divers in the San Clemente and Goodwin fisheries. The resource cannot continue to support more and more divers. I started fishing Goodwin in 1993; I fished that season in Ulitka Bay there were 3 boats counting my own. Last year in the same area there were 16 boats. With so many boats in such a small area it makes the fishery more dangerous. It also puts more pressure on the resource. Goodwins on the average are 60 yrs old. How can we put more and more pressure on a resource that takes so long to grow?

As for Ocean Fresh and Sea Urchins. It seems that sixteen divers that have fished sea urchins for Ocean Fresh under the test fishery do not ~~qualify~~ qualify for the moratorium. It is my opinion that those divers had a choice. They could have fished San Clemente, Goodwin or Adeline to qualify for the moratorium.

They chose to fish Red Sea Urchins for Ocean Fresh. Only one of those divers out of the 15 or 16 was an Alaska resident. The rest of the divers were Ocean Fresh's top urchin divers from California. These divers are squawking because they will be cut out of the urchin fishery in Alaska when in fact they are from California! They could have done any of the dive fisheries and qualified; they chose not to. They could always buy into the fishery if it was ever limited. Ocean Fresh wants ~~stop~~ their Calif. divers to continue to fish for them rather than Alaska residents.

We cannot continue to let more divers into the fisheries; the pie is getting cut up to much; it's becoming uneconomical to even think about diving Sea Cucumbers. With Godwits we still have a chance let's not blow it.

Please support House Bill 547. The resources cannot continue if we keep increasing our numbers in the dive fisheries.

Sincerely,

HARLEY STEBBIN

# Alaska State Legislature



Representative William K. Williams

Committees:  
House Resources  
Co-Chairman  
World Trade &  
State Federal Relations  
Transportation  
Rules  
Oil & Gas

During Session  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3424  
Fax (907) 465-3293

In Ketchikan  
352 Fourth Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
(907) 247-4672  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT

### House Bill 547

"An Act relating to a four-year moratorium on entry into Southeast Alaska dive fisheries."

House Bill 547 would place a moratorium on new entrants into four of the Southeast Alaska dive fisheries. It would include sea urchin, sea cucumber, geoduck and abalone.

Commercial fishermen are attempting to diversify within commercial fisheries. In the Southeast dive fisheries, diversification is occurring by fishing for more than one species. This increased interest and effort caused the number of divers to be precariously high at the end of 1995.

The purpose of this moratorium is to set aside a period of time for examination of each aspect of the Southeast dive fisheries absent concern of increasing harvest effort. There is more than keen interest in the dive fisheries from residents and non-residents. The Department of Fish & Game has been gathering assessment and management data on these fisheries. A moratorium on new entry into the Southeast Alaska dive fisheries is necessary to allow a proper review and analysis of the sea cucumber, abalone, sea urchin and geoduck fisheries.

The Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery cannot be opened due to lack of research and management. The large number of new divers interested in this fishery would be difficult to manage and may threaten the sustained yield management of the sea urchin resource.

House Bill 547 places a four-year moratorium on entrants into the sea cucumber, sea urchin, geoduck and abalone fisheries. The moratorium is necessary to provide an opportunity to investigate alternative means of fishing effort regulation that may be more appropriate for these fisheries.

Coordination of available data and investigation into the management of these fisheries should provide long-term opportunities to the state and its residents. These valuable fishery resources need special attention. House Bill 547 would provide the mechanism for the development of sustainable fisheries which provide the best economic opportunity to the participants and the best economic return for the state.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. CSHB547(RES) am**

Revision Date: 4/1/96 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title: Moratorium on entry into Southeast Alaska dive fisheries BRU: Commercial Fisheries (Limited) Entry Commission  
 Component: Limited Entry Program Administration  
 Sponsor: House Resources Committee  
 Requester: Senate Resources Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0471

(Thousands of Dollars)

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						

(Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY96) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

This bill would place a moratorium on the Southeast Alaska dive fisheries in order for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Board of Fisheries and the participants in the fisheries to develop a long range plan.

Prepared By: Roger Kolden Phone: 789 8100  
 Agency: Commercial Fisheries (Limited) Entry Commission Date: 4/5/96  
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank Hornum  
 Agency: Commercial Fisheries (Limited) Entry Commission Date: 4/5/96

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PRELIMINARY DATA  
SOUTHEAST ALASKA DIVE FISHERY  
1983-1995

CPEC Report 96-5  
March 20, 1996

Al Tingiey

Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission  
8800 Glacier Hwy. #109  
Juneau, AK 99801

## Table of Contents

### Abalone

Table A1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery, 1983-1995.

Table A2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery, 1983-1995.

Table A3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

### Sea Cucumbers

Table C1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery, 1983-1995.

Table C2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery, 1983-1995.

Table C3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

### Geoducks

Table G1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery, 1983-1995.

Table G2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery, 1983-1995.

Table G3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

## Table of Contents

### Sea Urchins

Table U1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery, 1983-1995.

Table U2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery, 1983-1995.

Table U3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

### Combined Dive Fishery

Table T1. Number of unique individuals who fished in the combined abalone, sea cucumber, geoduck and sea urchin fisheries during the given time period, 1983-1995.

Southeast Abalone Fishery, 1983-1995  
Participation/Landings/Earnings

Table A1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Number of Persons	Pounds			Earnings		
		Average	Median	Total	Average	Median	Total
83	22	2,127	1,056	46,804	\$5,945	\$2,454	\$130,788
84	28	3,411	2,031	95,512	\$8,373	\$4,869	\$234,445
85	28	2,680	1,081	75,053	\$7,793	\$3,189	\$218,198
86	23	2,638	1,099	60,666	\$7,254	\$3,046	\$166,838
87	42	1,623	803	68,173	\$5,021	\$2,453	\$210,901
88	45	1,691	1,684	76,100	\$6,830	\$6,802	\$307,368
89	66	936	686	61,804	\$5,010	\$3,797	\$330,678
90	97	705	371	68,386	\$3,855	\$2,430	\$373,905
91	95	464	321	44,034	\$2,816	\$2,025	\$267,512
92	99	362	246	35,863	\$3,885	\$2,528	\$384,602
93	85	410	331	34,852	\$5,964	\$4,730	\$506,976
94	101	227	162	22,879	\$3,398	\$2,273	\$343,194
95	95	151	87	14,352	\$1,332	\$825	\$126,560

Southeast Abalone Fishery, 1983-1995  
Participation/Landings/Earnings  
Resident vs. Nonresident

Table A2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Resident				Nonresident					
	Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings		Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings	
		Average	Total	Average	Total		Average	Total	Average	Total
83	22	2,127	46,804	\$5,945	\$130,788					
84	20	3,411	95,512	\$8,373	\$234,445					
85	28	2,680	75,053	\$7,793	\$218,198					
86	*									
87	38	1,778	67,570	\$5,501	\$209,020	4	151	603	\$470	\$1,881
88	40	1,670	66,792	\$6,744	\$269,773	5	1,862	9,308	\$7,519	\$37,595
89	60	937	56,228	\$5,031	\$301,843	6	929	5,576	\$4,806	\$28,835
90	78	668	52,109	\$3,634	\$283,461	19	857	16,277	\$4,760	\$90,444
91	78	460	35,906	\$2,891	\$225,530	17	478	8,128	\$2,470	\$41,983
92	79	379	29,918	\$4,259	\$336,498	20	297	5,945	\$2,405	\$48,101
93	71	410	29,116	\$5,986	\$425,003	14	410	5,736	\$5,855	\$81,973
94	91	237	21,540	\$3,555	\$323,482	10	134	1,339	\$1,971	\$19,712
95	90	158	14,211	\$1,393	\$125,361	5	28	141	\$240	\$1,199

\* Confidential Data

Southeast Abalone Fishery, 1983-1995  
Unique Participation Count

Table A3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska abalone fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1995	195
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1994	154
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	187
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	225
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	253
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	276
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	292
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1988	298
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1987	311
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1986	315
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1985	325
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1984	332
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1983	335

**Southeast Sea Cucumber Fishery, 1983-1995**  
**Participation/Landings/Earnings**

Table C1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Number of Persons	Pounds			Earnings		
		Average	Median	Total	Average	Median	Total
83	*						
84	*						
87	12	6,131	5,738	73,567	\$1,287	\$1,205	\$15,449
88	5	10,081	13,351	50,403	\$2,127	\$2,817	\$10,635
89	94	13,797	7,586	1,296,931	\$5,768	\$3,164	\$542,168
90	238	9,149	4,758	2,177,433	\$5,375	\$2,886	\$1,279,278
91	204	6,117	3,585	1,247,907	\$4,908	\$2,869	\$1,001,141
92	240	5,207	3,734	1,249,621	\$4,828	\$3,554	\$1,158,799
93	320	3,014	2,333	964,343	\$3,112	\$2,462	\$995,783
94	232	4,168	2,746	966,873	\$7,439	\$4,901	\$1,725,868
95	440	3,830	2,475	1,685,235	\$4,909	\$3,051	\$2,159,804

\* Confidential Data

Southeast Sea Cucumber Fishery, 1983-1995  
Participation/Landings/Earnings  
Resident vs. Nonresident

Table C2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Resident				Nonresident					
	Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings		Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings	
		Average	Total	Average	Total		Average	Total	Average	Total
83	•									
84	•									
87	•									
88	5	10,081	50,403	\$2,127	\$10,635					
89	67	12,373	828,963	\$5,147	\$344,864	27	17,332	467,968	\$7,308	\$197,304
90	65	8,316	1,372,091	\$4,967	\$819,491	73	11,032	805,342	\$6,298	\$459,787
91	146	6,664	972,904	\$5,338	\$779,304	58	4,741	275,003	\$3,825	\$221,837
92	136	5,144	699,610	\$4,737	\$644,192	104	5,289	550,011	\$4,948	\$514,607
93	145	3,180	461,109	\$3,257	\$472,264	175	2,876	503,234	\$2,992	\$523,519
94	190	4,227	803,224	\$7,546	\$1,433,755	42	3,896	163,649	\$6,955	\$292,117
95	348	3,769	1,311,529	\$4,886	\$1,700,392	92	4,062	373,706	\$4,994	\$459,412

• Confidential Data

**Southeast (Sea) Cucumber Fishery, 1983-1995**  
**Unique Participation Count**

**Table C3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska sea cucumber fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.**

Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1995	440
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1994	472
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	636
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	688
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	756
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	866
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	887
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1987	892
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1984	894

**Southeast Geoduck Fishery, 1983-1995**  
**Participation/Landings/Earnings**

**Table G1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery, 1983-1995.**

Year	Number of Persons	Pounds			Earnings		
		Average	Median	Total	Average	Median	Total
83	•						
84	•						
85	•						
86	7	18,709	7,330	130,961	\$3,725	\$1,466	\$26,075
87	•						
88	6	31,643	35,104	189,856	\$9,556	\$10,719	\$57,338
89	14	14,603	5,285	204,441	\$7,397	\$2,643	\$103,562
90	16	16,925	6,240	270,806	\$8,600	\$3,120	\$137,600
91	22	11,254	8,104	247,594	\$6,966	\$5,129	\$153,255
92	22	8,877	7,246	195,286	\$9,813	\$8,098	\$215,897
93	39	5,367	4,683	209,322	\$7,882	\$6,795	\$307,417
94	52	2,827	2,667	187,010	\$4,625	\$4,363	\$240,508
95	106	2,460	1,677	260,808	\$4,956	\$3,069	\$525,341

• Confidential Data

**Southeast Geoduck Fishery, 1983-1995**  
**Participation/Landings/Earnings**  
**Resident vs. Nonresident**

Table Q2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Resident				Nonresident					
	Number of Persons	Average Pounds	Total Pounds	Average Earnings	Total Earnings	Number of Persons	Average Pounds	Total Pounds	Average Earnings	Total Earnings
83	*									
84	*									
85	*									
86	*									
87	*									
88	6	31.643	189,856	\$9,558	\$57,338					
89	*									
90	12	9,609	115,311	\$4,988	\$59,853	4	38,874	155,495	\$19,437	\$77,748
91	10	6,575	65,746	\$4,087	\$40,873	12	15,154	181,848	\$9,365	\$112,382
92	*									
93	*									
94	13	1,097	14,260	\$1,795	\$23,329	39	3,404	132,750	\$5,569	\$217,176
95	51	1,097	55,934	\$2,016	\$102,812	55	3,725	204,874	\$7,682	\$422,529

\* Confidential Data

Southeast Geoduck Fishery, 1983-1995  
Unique Participation Count

Table Q3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1995	106
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1994	114
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	124
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	125
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	133
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	139
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	143
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1988	144
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1986	147

**Southeast Sea Urchin Fishery, 1983-1995**  
**Participation/Landings/Earnings**

Table U1. Number of persons, average, median and total pounds and earnings, by year, for the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Number of Persons	Pounds			Earnings		
		Average	Median	Total	Average	Median	Total
83	•						
84	11	9,762	2,814	107,380	\$1,787	\$374	\$19,656
85	12	10,498	4,787	125,973	\$1,312	\$598	\$15,747
86	13	21,722	13,550	282,384	\$3,059	\$1,911	\$39,763
87	19	14,367	5,102	652,965	\$5,057	\$750	\$96,085
88	4	13,602	11,744	54,409	\$5,535	\$5,285	\$22,141
89	10	14,207	15,985	142,068	\$3,509	\$3,946	\$35,091
90	5	3,254	3,040	16,270	\$856	\$800	\$4,279
91	6	29,039	25,186	174,233	\$8,741	\$7,581	\$52,444
92	37	11,574	5,647	428,220	\$3,345	\$1,632	\$123,756
93	17	8,440	7,940	143,465	\$2,405	\$2,263	\$40,893
95	•						

• Confidential Data

Southeast Sea Urchin Fishery, 1983-1995  
 Participation/Landings/Earnings  
 Resident vs. Nonresident

Table U2. Number of participants, average and total pounds and earnings, by year and residency in the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery, 1983-1995.

Year	Resident					Nonresident				
	Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings		Number of Persons	Pounds		Earnings	
	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total	Average	Total		
83	•									
84	•									
85	•									
86	•									
87	13	32,162	418,110	\$4,736	\$61,562	6	39,143	234,855	\$5,754	\$34,524
88	4	13,602	54,409	\$5,535	\$22,141					
89	•									
90	•									
91	•									
92	14	8,022	112,309	\$2,318	\$32,457	23	13,735	315,911	\$3,969	\$91,298
93	9	6,067	54,604	\$1,729	\$15,562	8	11,110	88,881	\$3,166	\$25,331
95	•									

• Confidential Data

Southeast Sea Urchin Fishery, 1983-1995  
Unique Participation Count

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Table U3. Number of unique individuals who fished in the Southeast Alaska sea urchin fishery during the given time period, 1983-1995.

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Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	17
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	50
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	53
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	58
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	64
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1988	65
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1987	80
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1986	85
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1985	90
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1984	96

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Southeast Alaska Diving Fisheries, 1983-1995  
Abalone, Sea Cucumber, Geoduck and Sea Urchin  
Unique Participation Count

Table T1. Number of unique individuals who fished in the combined abalone, sea cucumber, geoduck and sea urchin fisheries during the given time period, 1983-1995.

Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1995	474
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1994	533
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	709
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	797
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	876
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	986
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	1015
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1988	1021
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1987	1042
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1986	1051
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1985	1060
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1984	1070
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1983	1073

STATE OF ALASKA  
 Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission  
 8800 Glacier Hwy #109  
 Juneau, AK 99801  
 (907)789-6160

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Southeast Alaska Diving Fisheries  
 Number of Unique Individuals  
 Abalone and Geoduck Fisheries Combined  
 Who Fished During the Given Time Period

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Year Combination	Cumulative Unique Individuals
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1995	188
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1994	250
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1993	292
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1992	331
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1991	365
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1990	390
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1989	407
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1988	413
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1987	425
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1986	431
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1985	439
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1984	446
Jan. 1, 1996 to Jan. 1, 1983	449

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March 22, 1996  
 ACT3

Patrick M. Cassin  
P O Box 109  
Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

April 13, 1996

THE SENATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA

DEAR SENATORS;

Is the 'legislative intent' of CSHB 547 that those who qualify under three other fisheries be given a higher priority classification in the urchin fishery than those whom have actually been urchin divers?

UNDER CSHB 547 I QUALIFY FOR AN URCHIN LICENSE DUE TO MY PARTICIPATION IN THE URCHIN FISHERY AT SITKA IN 93.

DOES CSHB 547 DIRECT THE COMMERCIAL FISH ENTRY COMMISSION TO GIVE ABALONE, CUCUMBER AND/OR GEODUCK DIVERS, A HIGHER PRIORITY LICENSE, UNDER CSHB 547 SEC.3 (F), THAN URCHIN DIVERS IN THE URCHIN FISHERY.

Sincerely,



PATRICK M. CASSIN

Patrick M. Cassin  
P.O. Box 109  
METLAKATLA, AK 99928

April 3, 1996

The Senate Resource Cijommittee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams

Both urchins and geoducks are emerging fisheries in Alaska. Under the current version of CSHB 547, anyone who harvested geoducks between 1994 and 1996 will qualify to harvest sea urchins. In order to be equitable to urchin and geoduck divers, the 1992-93 red sea urchin fishery should qualify the 50 participants as "proof" (per CSHB 547), satisfactory to CFEC for entry into the Alaska State geoduck dive fishery.

By this amendment no new divers would be added to the total number of divers in Southeast Alaska. Participants of the red sea urchin fishery, 1992-93 are allowed to dive under CSHB 547 (4/01/96).

Please amend CSHB 547, Sec.2 (c), the geoduck fishery, to include those who participated in the 1992-93 sea urchin fishery.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Cassin  
(907) 886-3195 home  
(907) 886-3196 work 3196

To - Senate Resource Committee

From Tim Foley, Boat Owner, Active Sea Urchin  
Fisherman State of Alaska

I would like to bring to your attention that with House Bill #547 we are overlooking a few good people that have made the Sea Urchin test fishery a great success.

We put all of our effort in the test fishery for the future of the Sea Urchin fishery. With that commitment we did not work much in other dive fisheries in South East AK.

Sincerely,

Tim Foley

Jeff Martin  
P.O. Box 268  
Metlakatla, AK  
99926

Resource Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK  
99801-1182

To the Members of the Resource Committee;

Ref. CSHB 547

My name is Jeff Martin. I am a diver in Southeast Alaska. I am also a resident and a registered voter. I am currently involved in the red sea urchin test fishery in area 101.

Due to specific wording in the bill, CSHB 547 does not allow myself and fifteen other professional urchin divers to qualify for an urchin permit simply because we do not have landings of other types of shellfish. The reason for not having such landings is because we needed to bring a certain amount of sea urchin regularly to make the current test fishery (1995-96) work. We as urchin divers have invested a lot of time and effort to not be involved in the fishery we built. It would benefit the fishery greatly to include the divers who have recent experience diving red sea urchin by including wording which would allow permits for divers who worked the test fishery.

Take into consideration, this is my livelihood. I am a resident, a professional urchin diver, and, under the current wording, I do not qualify for an urchin diver permit. Please consider changing the wording to include those of us who participated in the test fishery.

Sincerely,



Senate Resources Committee Member,

April 11, 1996

I am an owner / operator of an Alaskan Commercial fishing vessel. I fish full time as my primary source of income and support of my family.

I participate exclusively in dive fisheries and have fished in Southeast, Cook Inlet, and Kodiak.

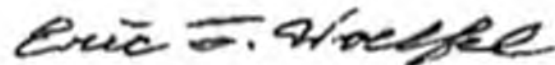
Since I have rotated fishing areas and seasons to maximize my income, under current proposed legislation, specifically House Bill 547, I would be disqualified from a permit.

I am opposed to House Bill 547 as it is written.

I would like HB 547 to be amended to allow all my statewide landings and my participation in the current urchin test fishery to qualify me for future participation in dive fisheries.

I have invested many hours of effort and much money in equipment to help develop and further the dive fisheries. I do not want to be excluded. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric T. Woelfel

Owner/Operator P/V YOUNG SPRITE

PATRICK M. CASSIN  
P.O. BOX 109  
METLAKATLA, AK 99926

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

04/02/96

The Urchin fishery is new to Southeast Alaska. The 7634 hours spent underwater during the test fishery in District 1 by divers has returned millions of dollars to the community. This was accomplished by forty-six divers, twenty-two of who are residents.

These are the divers who helped start the Sea Urchin Fishery. The knowledge and labor gained and contributed to it were expended in an attempt to start a fishery and participate in it.

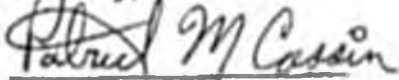
We ask that the participants in the test fishery be included in bill 547. Specifically that 547 be amended in:

Section 2 (d) to allow participants in the Sea Urchin test fishery for 1995-1996 to use that participation as proof, satisfactory to CFEC, for entry into the Southeast Alaska Sea Urchin dive fishery.

Section 2 (g) exclusive of the Sea Urchin fishery. The Sea Urchin fishery should be allowed to develop. Participation in the Urchin fishery during the moratorium should determine who is eligible for an entry permit.

Section 3 (f) exclusive of the Sea Urchin fishery. As stated above participation during the moratorium will provide the first true test of who will actually work in this emerging fishery.

Sincerely,



Pat M. Cassin  
907 886 3196 W  
907 886 3195 H

To Senator Lemman  
fax # 465-3810

4.9.96

RE: HB 547

Dear Senator Lemman,

As HB 547 now stands, except for the SE, the rest of Alaska's coastal residents and participants in commercial diving will lose yet another large cut in our means of earning a living.

Compared to other fisheries the number of these fishermen are small. The population of targeted fish in the diving fishery is also comparatively small. That is why divers need the opportunity to travel to wherever the fish are, working within the established seasons/closures.

Is the idea of HB 547 to downsize the number of <sup>inter</sup> new out of state divers? The exclusiveness of this HB is not the answer.

A commercial diving license has 'state wide' on the card. I vote keep this fishery state wide.

If moratorium is found to be the best <sup>sustainable</sup> option of manage the fishery for optimum yield then let it be open to all divers state wide during the qualifying years.

Sincerely

R. A. In

Franklin - Idroch.

4/2/96

Southwest Alaska Harvest Divers Association  
P.O. Box 6263  
Ketchikan, AK. 99901  
Ph. (907) 225-3189

Honorable Jerry Mackie  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

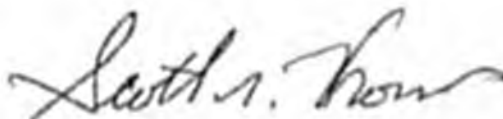
APR 02 1996

Dear Jerry

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank you for your support of House bill 547 and for taking the time to work with Cheryl on an equitable solution to your amendment. Although many of us feel your amendment is a compromise to our original goal, we realize your support is much more important in getting passage of the bill. After all it's a fair compromise and we need your support.

We hope you will continue working with Cheryl Sutton, Bill Williams, and Robin Taylor in getting the bill passed. If there is anything we can do help please contact us and let me know, we would like to stay involved in the process.

Sincerely  
Scott D. Thomas



3/25/96

Scott D. Thomas  
945 Lincoln ST.  
Ketchikan AK. 99901  
Ph. (907) 225-3189  
Fax(907) 247-5308

Alaska Legislature

Dear: Fellow Alaskans

I Am writing in regards to Rep. Bill Williams bill to enact a for 4 year moratorium on all Southeast Alaska Dive fisheries. I support the bill as written.

As a fourth generation Alaskan and committed commercial Fisherman I have struggled in recent years to maintain my Southeast Seine operation and with current market conditions in the Salmon industry I see the struggle getting worse. Over the past ten years in the Salmon business, as an owner operator, I have diversified my operation into as many different fisheries as I could i.e. Halibut, Blackcod, Herring, Tendering, and most recently I have participated for the past 3 years in the Sea Cucumber and Geoduck dive fisheries.

During the short time I have been involved in these dive fisheries I have seen the participation increase dramatically, as I am sure CFEC can confirm. This past years participation reached a level to where both the Geoduck and Sea Cucumber fishery were no longer feasible to operate my vessel and it's my opinion these fisheries are right at the edge of being unmanageable in the eyes of the Dept. of Fish&Game.

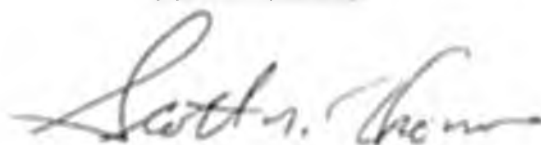
Although I feel this moratorium comes "a day late and a dollar short" if passed it would provide the opportunity to salvage these fisheries, which we have invested our lives. In hindsight I blame no one but myself for not getting involved in the process sooner.

This bill would solve some significant problems for the industry.

- 1.) It would give the Dept. the power to manage these resources much more effectively.
- 2.) It would provide opportunity to the fishermen who have made a commitment to the industry.
- 3.) It would protect the opportunity for all of Southeastern Alaska's dive harvesters to participate in the now controversial Urchin fishery from droves of out of state divers who are now other wise sure to come.

In conclusion this bill tells me that our local representatives, legislature and State are willing to make the same commitment to fishermen like myself as I have made to the State. It gives us the opportunity to continue servicing debt on State loan, boat mortgages and other commitments we have made to the State of Alaska. The bill maintains opportunity, after all it's really the opportunity we are after.

Sincerely  
Scott D. Thomas



## Member

Steve Lacroix	P.O. Box 5686 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 254-0801
Scott Thomas	945 Lincoln St Ketchikan AK, 99901	907 225-3189
Lance Pihlman	P.O. Box 5322 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-3768
Clay Bezenek	P.O. Box 6464 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-3738
Bryan Philbrook	P.O. Box 983 Ward Cove, AK, 99928	907 225-2882
Doug Thomas	8115 N. Tongass Hwy, Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-8578
Michael R. Anderson	P.O. Box 7382 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-5682
Shawn Murphy	P.O. Box 8258 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-5682
Highliner Laedroma	5275 Shoreline Drive Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-8520
Harley Ethelbah	P.O. Box 972 Petersburg, AK, 99833	907 772-4732
Andy Kittams	P.O. Box 1544 Petersburg, AK, 99833	907 772-4823
Brian Mattson	P.O. Box 1168 Petersburg, AK, 99833	907 772-2170
Curtis Anderson	P.O. Box 7118 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-2458
Stan Oaksmith	P.O. Box 8944 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-8555
Kurt Kvernvik	P.O. Box 1081 Petersburg, AK, 99833	907 772-3595
E.C. Phillips	P.O. Box 8235 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-3121
Ross Nagamine	P.O. Box 5703 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-1307
Ryan Morin	P.O. Box 8164 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-1318
Mark Nugent	P.O. Box 8141 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-8383
Terry Gans	P.O. Box 6583 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 223-7539
Kurtis R Morin	P.O. Box 619 Ward Cove, Ak, 99928	907 247-8438
Greg Rice	200 Mattie Rd Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-3893
Gavin McCollom	P.O. Box 7173 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-2465
Scott Sabin	P.O. Box 5686 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 ?
James E Moody	P.O. Box 1643 Ward Cove, AK, 99928	907 247-1643
Kurt Gloor	P.O. Box 5686 Ketchikan, Ak, 99901	380 427-8085
Joe Griffin Jr.	P.O. Box 3073 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-3073
Scott Heitman	3213 Timberline Ct Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-9227
Joseph Borer	P.O. Box 1245 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-2234
Darell Welk	2331 4th Ave, Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-7475
Dave Hashagen	P.O. Box 23008 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 247-3283
Nick Hashagen	P.O. Box 7003 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-8220
Chris Poats	P.O. Box 1701 Petersburg, Ak, 99833	907 772-4082
Larry Jackson	P.O. Box 23384 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-5368
Brett Stillwaugh	P.O. Box 5961 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 ?
Greg middag	643 Sunset Drive Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-2280
Brian M. Gierard	1182 Black Bear Road Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-2270
Rudy Fraanelovich	P.O. Box 23078 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-8240
Tim Scanlon	P.O. box 8095 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-5033
Dea Castle	P.O. Box 9172 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-1777
Ken Eichner	5186 Shoreline Drive Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-4517
Gregory S. Harrison	P.O. Box 1045 Craig, AK, 99921	907 247-5000
John A. Hendricks	P.O. Box 5821 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-4384
Alan Benitz	P.O. Box 108 Petersburg, AK, 99801	907 772-4834
Kin. Ent. Center	2050 Dea Level Drive	907 225-8011
Dale Pihlman	P.O. Box 7814 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	907 225-3498
Brad Nelson	P.O. box 5686 Ketchikan, AK, 99901	208 758-0508

Mes.

Mes.

Caley N. McCay

March 22, 1996

P/V Moriah  
P.O. Box 2142  
Petersburg, AK 99833

MAR 21 1996

To Alaska Legislators

I am a gooduck and cucumber diver from Petersburg. I am in favor of a moratorium on all dive fisheries. Any opposition from my fellow divers to implementing a moratorium on gooducks is coming from those who have not taken the opportunity to participate in the fishery. While I have invested thousands of dollars in equipment to fish gooducks, these other divers have repeatedly shown no interest. Now that our fishing time and receipts have been drastically reduced and a moratorium is imminent, they are suddenly interested in fishing gooducks. Don't be deceived. They simply want the fishery open for another year so they can have one final opportunity to qualify for a permit they haven't wanted for years. This is simply not fair to those of us that have put in the time and effort to develop the fishery. The gooduck fishery is saturated just like the cucumber and abalone fisheries. I ask you to take the same course of action for all dive fisheries and implement a moratorium as Representative Williams has proposed.

Thank you,

*Caley McCay*  
Caley N. McCay

Post-It Fax Note	7871	Date	3/22 1996
To	Representative Williams	From	Moriah Dive Trucks
Call/Text	Dive Bill	Cell	
Phone #	907 465 3124	Phone #	907 772 4732
Fax #	907 465 3793	Fax #	907 772 4431

Aaron J. Cummins

F/V Fairlead  
P.O. Box 949  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

March 22, 1996

To Legislators and Senators

In reference to the new bill about current dive fisheries and the upcoming urchin fishery, I, Aaron Cummins, the owner and operator of the dive vessel Fairlead, and on behalf of my crewman, Ty Cummins, hereby state we are in complete support of the present bill set before us at the teleconference on the 21st of March 1996.

I commend your noble efforts to protect the lifestyle I have chosen. I also commend you for proposing a pre-fishery moratorium on urchins to protect the wealth of our state's underdeveloped urchin fishery.

In conclusion the new bill proposed does precisely what is best for the dive fisherman of the State of Alaska. Thanks again.

Aaron J. Cummins



To Rep. Williams and Cheryl Sutton  
and whoever it may concern:

Thank you for the time and effort you put into writing the proposal for a moratorium on the commercial dove fisheries of Southeast Alaska. It has come time to do something with these fisheries and I feel the proposal addresses it very well. I am in support of the proposal as written using the 94-95 years as the qualifying years for all dove fisheries (broods, abalone, cucumbers and weebins). At the teleconference on 3-21-96 there seemed to be some opposition to the limiting of broods. If the proposal is to work broods can't be left out. It would ruin the fishery for those in it with a goldenish effect. It would also make it unsafe for those participating. The open areas for broods are small and within the open areas it is also limited to the area you are able to find and dig broods. In essence you crowd a lot of boats close together. Having another year of open access would add even more participants trying to get on the open areas. I feel that in some areas it would get to the point of being unsafe to dive. In all instances of trying to put a moratorium in place there is strong opposition from those who have not yet participated. I would like to see the proposal go forward as written to protect all the dove fisheries especially broods so those who have participated will have a viable, safe fishery in the future.

Thank you  
Brian Mattson

Petersburg, AK

Derek Thynes  
Box 1015  
Petersburg, Ak. 99833

House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Ak. 998701-1182

Dear Representatives and Senators:

I am writing to show my support for the working draft of 9-LS1802\A, the bill written by Representative Bill Williams. This Bill puts a moratorium on all of the dive fisheries. I have participated in cucumbers since 1992 and geoducks since 1994. In the first three years I dove for cucumbers the number of participants stayed stable at around 250 divers. Then in the 95' season the number went up to 440, a scary increase. The participation in the geoduck fishery showed about the same increase in diver numbers. In 1994 there were fifty two divers in the geoduck fishery as compared to a hundred and six divers in 1995. The number of divers participating in this fishery doubled in one year.

Just from being around the dive industry I can predict another increase in diver participation in Sea Cucumbers, and everybody seems to want to start diving for geoducks.

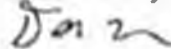
The Sea Cucumber fishery is already a lost cause due to the number of divers participating. But geoducks and urchin have hope of being saved.

Urchin is not open for harvest yet. Fish and Game will not open the fishery until there is a way to control the number of participants. There is a nation wide interest in fishing urchins just to get a permit. If it is open wide open it will be another gold rush and there will be no individual money made, and much of the money that is made will go out of state.

In my opinion Bill Williams proposal is the best way to preserve the dive fisheries. I urge you to support Representative Williams and the Alaska Divers in passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Derek Thynes



Andrew W. Kittams

F/V Capri  
P.O. Box 1544  
Petersburg, AK 99833

March 22, 1996

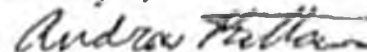
To Alaska Legislators,

As a Southeast Alaska resident diver, I am in full support of Representative Williams proposed bill which would put a moratorium on the cucumber, abalone, geoduck, and urchin dive fisheries.

I currently fish cucumbers and geoducks and won't be able to fish abalone under the moratorium. However, I think this is only fair to the current abalone fishermen. On the same token, it is only fair to allow only fishermen who have a history of fishing geoducks to continue to harvest this unique resource. To leave geoducks out of a moratorium on other dive fisheries would ruin the geoduck fishery. Every diver in Alaska and the west coast would jump into geoducks to make a sale so they could qualify for a future geoduck moratorium.

Currently there are one hundred and six geoduck divers, and we were allowed to harvest for a mere three days or 18 hours total last year. The average diver grossed a mere \$4000. If the geoduck fishery is not included in this proposed moratorium, the fishery will surely dwindle for all involved. Please put a moratorium on all dive fisheries to preserve my livelihood and the resources I depend upon.

Thank you,



Andrew W. Kittams

To: House Resource Committee

From: Alaska Harvest Diver's Association, Sitka  
Larry Trani, president

Date: March 27, 1996

Re: Cheryl Sutton/HB 547

Dear members of the House Resource Committee:


It is not every day that the people I have been representing lately (dive members of the Sitka Chapter of the Alaska Harvest Diver's Association) or myself have the opportunity to speak highly of the legislative process or the bureaucracy of state government. It is with great pleasure that we praise the events of the past few weeks and the efforts of your legislative aid, Cheryl Sutton.

As you are aware our group has been working with Cheryl recently on HB 547 (dive moratorium bill). At every step of the process Cheryl has offered help, answered questions and generally directed us. She was tremendously encouraging and professional with her suggestions and seemed to be working 24 hours a day for us. It was most refreshing to find someone in the legislative process with Cheryl's attitude and work ethics. If more people involved with state government were like Cheryl the public's opinion of elected officials and bureaucrats in general would vastly improve.

The House Resource Committee has a wonderful asset with Cheryl Sutton. We're sure you already know that.

We thank you all for your support today on HB 547 and we thank Cheryl in particular for everything she has done for us.

Sincerely,

  
Alaska Harvest Diver's Association  
Larry Trani, president

TO: Representative Bill Williams \*

From: Scott Saline

Regarding: Limited entry for diving

Good Day;

Please be advised that without my ability to harvest dive products as I have since 1982 I'll be broke as longline IFQ has put me out of work for most of the year. I went to school in 1994-1995 to try to offset the IFQ program.

Now you will reward speculators and people with tax returns that don't show a yearly dependency on the dive fisheries.

To use this to lock me out of the Urchin fishery would not be just.

"Abernathy" would not let us work here in Sitka for his urchin scam.

Please consider some kind of clause for education as a reason for not participating in 94-95.

I will be in touch at the end of this week as I'll be out of town but I will be preparing my defense of my life and livelihood.

Sincerely,

Scott Saline

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Saline". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Scott Saline".

PO Box 3183  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-7889



*Grand Camp  
Alaska Native Brotherhood*

One Sealaska Plaza - Suite 200  
Juneau, Ak 99801-1276  
907-586-9219

March 26, 1996

The Honorable Joe Green, Co-Chairman  
Honorable William K. Williams Co-Chairman  
House Resources Committee  
Room 124, State Capitol-MS 3100  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Mr. Chairmen:

The House Resources Committee has before it, the question of whether there should be a moratorium on the Dive Fishery in the Southeast Alaska.

The Grand Camp of the Alaska Native Brotherhood believes that the State of Alaska should impose a moratorium in the Dive Fishery, particularly in the Sea Urchin and the Sea Cucumber. May we presume that such a moratorium will include other species as well. It follows that it is our hope that such a moratorium take effect this year.

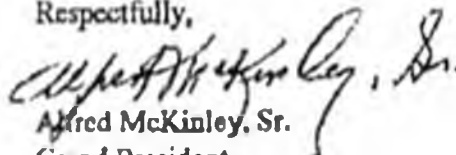
There are two primary reasons for our concern. One, the viability of the resource; and, two, the customary and traditional harvest by subsistence users. Our local Native people in Sitka, Klawock/Craig, and Ketchikan areas express concern over the decline in the Sea Urchin and Sea Cucumber populations.

We believe that the State should learn more of the dynamics of the species before permitting commercial harvesting to occur.

May we suggest the State consult with our local Native people that have knowledge of the resource; the dynamics of the resource; the area, terrain and effects of weather, and develop a management plan that assures the continued viability of the resources. To continue the dive fishery now, would result in depletion of the resources.

If we can be of assistance, we are prepared to assist, as we do have persons that have knowledge and experience.

Respectfully,



Alfred McKinley, Sr.  
Grand President

Date: Thurs. Evening, March 21, 1996  
To: Alaskan State Senate and House of Representatives  
Re: House Bill \_\_\_\_\_ Dive Fishery Moratorium

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature;

If you should ever wonder if all your hard work, late night / early morning, and weekend overtime efforts spent arranging teleconference sessions, drafting house bills and public concerns are truly noticed and appreciated allow me this chance to say you're *not* forgotten and thank you. I read once that in this world of ours there are millions of talented people but only a few who are willing to work. I dare to say that there are even fewer who are willing to work together towards a common good. I deeply appreciate your "willingness" to work and make a difference for good.

I am Alaskan by choice since 1991.

I have been a commercial blackcod/halibut crewman and commercial harvest diver since 1992, also by choice. And a lucrative choice it was at times. Unfortunately, because of an L.F.Q. opportunity my blackcod/halibut skipper chose to pursue (more power to him and much success) I am, not by choice, an unemployed crewman (Not so lucrative!) Regardless of lifes' changes and challenges I am still a husband, now father, and a hopeful S.E. Alaskan harvest diver.

This evening, I was excited to take part in a teleconference arranged by Rep. Bill William's and staff, and other distinguished persons, concerning a four year moratorium act on entry into S.E. Alaskan dive fisheries to include Abalone, Geo-ducks, Sea-cucumbers, and Sea-Urchins. In a word let me say "YES". In a phrase let me say "I fully support this Moratorium House Bill developed by Rep. William's and staff." In a letter, well, please keep reading.

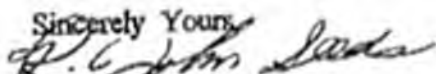
I believe that this "moratorium" is a fair, applicable, and crucial step for all S.E. Alaskan Dive fisheries. Already, our Sea-cucumber, Geo-duck, and Red Sea-Urchin resources have attracted "National" and even "International" attention. A "Gold-Rush" mentality to participate in any or all the discussed dive fisheries is currently finding its way to S.E. Shores. "Gold-Diggers" only interested in qualifying for any limited entry permit regardless of residency, past participation in fishery involvement and development, and occupation are coming to Alaska. The "Danger" inherent, is a tidal wave of "non-resident would-be divers" that will make it impossible to have any manageable and profitable dive fishery whatsoever.

As I have previously stated, I am Alaskan by choice.  
I am husband, father, and harvest diver by choice as well.  
I am getting involved with our legislative process by choice, too.  
Whether our S.E. Alaskan dive fisheries remain profitable and feasible depends on  
legislation in favor the house Bill for a 4 year moratorium on all dive fisheries as  
developed by Rep. William's and staff.

By choice I support such a House Bill and salute you all in your continued efforts as  
Alaska's Legislative body.

*Thank you !*

Sincerely Yours,



R. John Seeds

*Alaskan, Husband, Father, Harvest Diver, & Registered, informed Voter.*

Arlan J. Erickson  
P.O. Box 14  
Petersburg, Alaska  
99833  
(907) 772-4890  
(907) 772-4808 FAX

Post It Fax Note	7671	Date	2/22/96
To	Bill Williams	From	AK Dive Harvester
Co/Dept		Co	
Phone #	465 3924	Phone #	
Fax #	465 3793	Fax #	772-4431

Representative William K. Williams  
P.O. Box 6374  
Ketchikan, Alaska  
99901

Dear Congressman Williams,

I am a member of the Alaska Harvest Divers, Petersburg Chapter, and am writing to you to let you know that I support your work draft of the urchin bill as it stands.

While I would personally stand to lose out on participation in the abalone and geoduck fisheries I also see the need to stop the huge influx of divers that those two fisheries would receive should a moratorium not be placed on those two fisheries.

The moratorium on the cucumber fishery is an absolute must and should be placed in effect as quickly as possible. Also a moratorium on urchins based on past participation in other dive fisheries During the years 94-95 seems like the best way to limit the number of diver from other states from qualifying.

I think that it is wonderful that you are working on this bill so late in the session and I commend you on your efforts. If you have any questions please feel free to call or fax me at either of the above numbers.

Sincerely,  
  
Arlan J. Erickson

Wrangell, Alaska  
March 22, 1996

To the house resource committee my name is Richard Head, I am also a member of the Wrangell Harvest Divers Association, and have participated in the southeast Alaska dive fisheries for several year, Abalone and Sea Cucumbers.

I also believe that there should be a moratorium put on southeast Alaska dive fisheries but there needs to be some way for the divers that qualify to move inside the fisheries from one to another.

Where Wrangell is located there has been very little that Wrangell divers could participate in, only in the last two years has there been a area open to Sea Cucumbers that was close enough for them to dive in, and now that the mill has closed down there are several divers that just starting would like to move inside the fishery. There are only two area's that are open to Geoduck and if Fish and Game will open more area's there will be room for more divers but not only Geoducks, in the other dive fisheries also.

Sincerely,

Richard Head

March 22, 1996

To Cheryl Sutton  
House Resources Committee Aide

From: Kevin Kulm \ Sec.  
Wrangell Harvest Divers Assoc.  
P.O. Box 952  
Wrangell, AK 99929  
(907)874-3015

RE: Dive fisheries moratorium

First of all Cheryl we would like to thank you for your efforts in containing the explosion of divers coming into the dive fisheries. These fisheries must be kept viable for the fisherman that count on them for their incomes. As you are aware of we agreed to moratorium on sea cucumbers, abalone, and sea urchin, but objected to the gooduck moratorium. I believe if it came down to the loss of this bill we would support it as it was originally drafted with the moratorium on gooducks.

Although we feel that as a public resource, that this belongs to all the people of southeast and should have an avenue for expansion written into this bill. The reason for this is the room for development in all dive fisheries. We know that Fish and Game has purposely kept quotas low in open access fisheries to discourage out of state interest. We also know that funding has not been available for alot of the survey work which would enable larger quotas and more areas convenient to ours and other communities. So with proper funding and expansion of the dive fisheries, we feel there is alot of room for grow where these fisheries could provide income to the existing divers and somehow leave the door open for expansion to new divers in the future.

Patrick M. Cassin  
P.O. Box 109  
METLAKATLA, AK 99926

APR 04 1998

April 3, 1998

The House Resources Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams

Both urchins and geoducks are emerging fisheries in Alaska. Under the current version of CSHB 547, anyone who harvested geoducks between 1994 and 1998 will qualify to harvest sea urchins. In order to be equitable to urchin and geoduck divers, the 1992-93 red sea urchin fishery should qualify the 50 participants as "proof" (per CSHB 547), satisfactory to CFEC for entry into the Alaska State geoduck dive fishery.

By this amendment no new divers would be added to the total number of divers in Southeast Alaska. Participants of the red sea urchin fishery, 1992-93 are allowed to dive under CSHB 547 (4/01/98).

Please amend CSHB 547, Sec.2 (c), the geoduck fishery, to include those who participated in the 1992-93 sea urchin fishery.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Cassin  
(907) 886-3185 home  
(907) 886-3100 work

APR 04 1998

Patrick M. Cassin  
 PO Box 109  
 Metlakatla, Alaska 99926

Frank Homan  
 Chairman Commercial Fishery Entry Commission

Dear Mr Homan,

With regards SBH 547, as written  
 and introduced into the Senate:

Participants during 94-95 abalone or scudged  
 Sea Cucumber fisheries and 94-96 geoducks fisheries  
 during any year will be allowed a SE Uchin permit.

My question is, "Will the participants of the  
 92 or 93 Uchin fishery be allowed into the geoducks  
 abalone and sea cucumber fisheries?"

I would support the bill if qualifications  
 between fisheries were equitable.

As the Senate Resources  
 Committee is scheduled for Fri.  
 I have little time left to address  
 this question

Patrick M. Cassin  
 907 886 3195 h  
 886 3197 FAX

Jeff Martin  
P.O. Box 475  
Metlakatla, AK  
99926

Resource Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK  
99801-1182

To the Members of the Resource Committee;

Ref. CSHB 547

My name is Jeff Martin. I am a diver in Southeast Alaska. I am also a resident and a registered voter. I am currently involved in the red sea urchin test fishery in area 101.

Due to specific wording in the bill, CSHB 547 does not allow myself and fifteen other professional urchin divers to qualify for an urchin permit simply because we do not have landings of other types of shellfish. The reason for not having such landings is because we needed to bring a certain amount of sea urchin regularly to make the current test fishery (1995-96) work. We as urchin divers have invested a lot of time and effort to not be involved in the fishery we built. It would benefit the fishery greatly to include the divers who have recent experience diving red sea urchin by including wording which would allow permits for divers who worked the test fishery.

Take into consideration, this is my livelihood. I am a resident, a professional urchin diver, and, under the current wording, I do not qualify for an urchin diver permit. Please consider changing the wording to include those of us who participated in the test fishery.

Sincerely,



Brian Robbers  
P.O. Box 777  
Metlakatla, AK 99926  
(907) 886-3195

March 31, 1996

House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Ref. House Bill 547

Dear Representative,

I am deeply concerned that the passing of Bill No. 547, which relates to a four-year moratorium on entry into Southeast Alaska dive fisheries, will exclude me and deserving others from participating in the developing sea urchin fishery. I moved to Southeast Alaska in June of 1995 to participate in the sea urchin test fishery bringing my experience in harvesting sea urchins from California. The experienced harvesters who came to Alaska ensured a successful test fishery thereby laying the foundation for a viable open access fishery. I've come to love Alaska and want to make it my permanent home with sea urchin diving as my occupation. It is an injustice that some of the pioneers of this fishery will be unable to participate.

All I ask is the Bill be amended to include the participants in the test fishery who do not meet the currently proposed requirements. This will add relatively few harvesters to the current number of eligible participants and their combined experience will greatly benefit the upcoming urchin fishery.

Thank you very much for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Brian Robbers

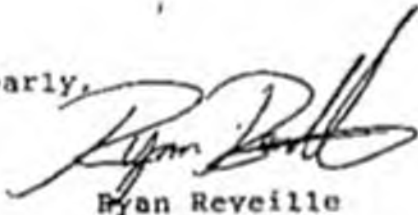


To: The House of Representatives  
State capital, Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

My name is Ryan Reveille and I am an Alaskan resident and registered voter in Ketchikan. I am a part of the present urchin fishery district 1. I have attended an eight month diving school and have invested roughly ten thousand dollars in tuition and equipment to be a part of the Alaskan diving fisheries.

The passing of HOUSE BILL NO. 547, will exclude myself and many other divers who are currently working in the test fishery from having an opportunity to partake in the ones to come. I would like to see the bill amended to make it possible for the current urchin divers to have an equal chance to be a part of any new fishery. I also feel we have earned the right and have done our part to help the fishery progress.

Sincerely,



Ryan Reveille

Jeff Martin  
P.O. Box 475  
METLAKATLA, AK 99926

March 31, 1996

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 999801-1102

Ref. Bill 547

Dear Representative,

I am a professional sea urchin diver and am interested in the sea urchin fishery in Southeast Alaska. I believe that the divers involved in the sea urchin test fishery should be able to dive for them when it opens. The only reason I don't qualify is I have not made previous landings in other dive fisheries other than the sea urchin test fishery which don't count under the proposed bill.

I am an Alaskan resident and registered voter. I've moved my family here and would love to fish here permanently.

Please make it possible for the diver's involved in the test fishery District 1 to dive here. We've put alot of work into this test fishery to make it happen and it will benefit alot of other Alaskans.

Yours Truly,

JEFF MARTIN

*Jeff Martin*

*Who did he come up?  
Phone #*

Jeremiah Cassin  
P.O. Box 109  
METLAKATLA, AK 99926

April 1, 1996

Senator Robin Taylor  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Taylor:

For the last year I have worked on the sea urchin test fishery in Metlakatla. I have learned how to dive and run boats. I'm also in high school and on the Honor Roll.

Bill 574 does not allow me entry into the urchin fishery even though I have helped start a new fishery.

I do not want this time and effort wasted. This job will pay for my collage.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Cassin

Jeremiah Cassin

Alaska State Legislature

House Bill # 547

To: House Resources Committee  
State of Alaska

From: Tim Foley  
Active Sea Urchin Fisherman  
State of Alaska

Sea Urchin Fishery

1 April 1996

Ref. Page 3, Line 28, under #3

I feel that we should add,  
(#4) Participation in Sea Urchin test  
fishery area one.

I did not participate much in  
the other live fisheries for fear  
of the sea urchin test fishery not  
having the participation it needed to  
make it into a viable fishery, as  
we have accomplished.

Ref. Page 4, Line 18-21 (G) Would not apply  
to the Sea Urchin fishery.

Ref. Page 4, Line 23-27 (F) Qualifications based  
on the sea urchin fishery during the moratorium.

Regards,

Tim Foley

Cummins

907 886 3145  
#4 TATE ST

Jeremiah Cassin  
P.O. Box 109  
METLAKATLA, AK 99926

April 1, 1996

Representative Bill Williams  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

For the last year I have worked on the sea urchin test fishery in Metlakatla. I have learned how to dive and run boats. I'm also in high school and on the Honor Roll.

Bill 574 does not allow me entry into the urchin fishery even though I have helped start a new fishery.

I do not want this time and effort wasted. This job will pay for my collage.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Cassin

Jeremiah Cassin

Aaron Cummins -

Petersburg

re: SB297/HB547

2M-96  
4-5-96  
3PM

Strongly support FAIRLEAD

(90) 772-2217  
3409