SCOMM
131:16

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM April 7, 2003

SUBJECT: CSHB 130(FSH) relating to damages in certain actions (Work Order No. 23-LS0484\Q)

TO: Representative Paul Seaton
Attn: Cameron
PB

FROM: Theresa L. Bannister
Legislative Counsel

This memo accompanies a draft of the bill described above. The comments in this memo are not caused by the amendments made by the committee.

Equal protection. Limiting the application of the bill to seafood processors raises an equal protection issue. To be successful, limiting the bill to this classification (seafood processors) must bear a fair and substantial relation to a legitimate governmental objective, and depending on the importance of the interests involved, a greater or lesser burden will be placed on the state to show this relationship. See Wilson v. Municipality of Anchorage, 669 P.2d 569 (Alaska 1983). The rationale and reasons behind this bill may be adequate to satisfy this test, but I wanted to alert you to the issue so that you realize that you need to meet these requirements.

Other constitutional issues. Although Evans v. State, 56 P.3d 1046 (Alaska 2002) held that a statute providing for the payment of a portion of the damages to the state was facially constitutional,[1] that case was a declaratory judgment and there was a dissent relevant to this bill. For your information, as a declaratory judgment, it is possible for the court to reach a different result in a later case when presented with a challenge to the law as applied in a particular case. See Evans at 1049. The dissent disagreed with the part of the opinion that upheld the punitive damages forfeiture provision; it viewed the forfeiture provision as violating substantive due process and the takings clause. See Evans at 1070. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to predict what the court would do with this bill.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:lmb
03-135.lmb

Enclosure

---

[1] Evans at 1057.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
HOUSE DISTRICT 4

ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

(907) 465-3744
FAX (907) 465-2273

HB 130

Unfair Trade Practices: Anti-Trust

This bill requires any party that brings a case an individual under Alaska's unfair trade practice statutes (AS 45.50) to pay 15% or $40 million of any damage award, whichever is less, to the State of Alaska. This bill is based upon the legislature's 1997 tort reform statute that requires any person who receives an award of punitive damages to pay 50 percent of the award be deposited into the general fund of the state.

This bill bases its 15% or $40 million figure on that precedent. The bill includes intent language calling for the legislature to appropriate the amount of funds received under this bill to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute for the purposes of marketing wild Alaska salmon. A companion bill, HB 131, would carry that intent by making an appropriation of $40 to ASMI.

Under Alaska's unfair trade practice statutes (AS 45.50.576), a person allegedly injured by wrongful conduct may bring a civil action, and seek for damages. If the court finds that the person was injured and the defendant's conduct was willful, the plaintiff is automatically awarded treble damages plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. The intent of this bill is to have the state receive 15% of the judgment before costs and attorney's fees out of any judgment by a plaintiff's attorneys.

A zero fiscal note and sectional analysis of this bill is attached.

Contact: Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
465-3744

Released: April 2, 2003

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Representative _Bruce_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us
www.akrepublicans.org/weyhrauch/

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Bruce Weyhrauch

HOUSE DISTRICT 4

ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA
99801-1182

(907) 465-3744
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Analysis

If a person receives an award of punitive damages, the court shall require that 50 percent of the award be deposited into the general fund of the state. This subsection does not grant the state the right to file or join a civil action to recover punitive damages.

§ 45.50.576. Suits by persons injured; treble damages

(a) A person who is injured in business or property by a violation of AS 45.50.562 - 45.50.570, or a person so injured because the person refuses to accede to a proposal for an arrangement that, if consummated, would be a violation of AS 45.50.562 - 45.50.570, may bring a civil action

(1) for damages sustained by the person, and if the judgment is for the plaintiff and the trier of fact finds that the defendant's conduct was willful, the plaintiff shall be awarded threefold the amount of damages sustained by the person, plus the costs of the suit, including reasonable attorney fees; and

(2) to enjoin the unlawful practice, and if judgment is for the plaintiff, the plaintiff may be awarded the costs of the suit, including reasonable attorney fees.

(b) When the state, a home rule or general law city or borough, or other governmental entity is injured by reason of a violation of > AS

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Representative_Bruce_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us
www.akrepublicans.org/weyhrauch/

Subject: Fw: Did you sponsor HB130?
Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2003 17:41:38 -0900
From: "JOE MACINKO" <jgmac@ptialaska.net>
To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:@ptialaska.net;>

----- Original Message -----
From: Stephen Taufen
To: Representative_Bruce_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 5:54 PM
Subject: Did you sponsor HB130?

Alaska State Representative Bruce Weyhrauch (R-Juneau)
RE: HB130

Dear Bruce:

Did you sponsor the bill to take 15% of any legal settlement from the Alakayak case and give it to ASMI, or rather to the general funds?

ASMI has failed for a decade or longer due to the intrusions of the defendant-processors into its affairs. Other USDA commodity groups have had success in bringing back high prices to the harvester, despite the Asian financial crises etc. I know, I worked on those programs, and for one season on ASMI export strategy, as a consultant, too. ASMI squandered a budget multiple times that which other commodity group prospered upon. Its money had long been awarded not on performance, but on Stevens' Berskshire clout. That harmed a lot of other agricultural folks.

I also know from being a corporate insider whistle-blower about the billions that the defendant companies have taken from Alaska. They are indefensible, but we'll all know that by summer.

I'd have rather seen a bill forming a board for resource transparency and accountability... dealing with the "product laundering" tax evasion of illicit bookkeeping (abusive transfer pricing techniques). For if the legislature does not protect Alaska's wealth, then whom?

The State of Alaska failed to prosecute antitrust, failed to cooperate with evidence on the Alakayak case, and has failed in many other ways -- all reflective of what's wrong in America today when multinationals have more power than Peoples, and a form or elitism, plutocracy, or more accurately - small-f fascism develops.

To ask now for a share of the award is disingenuous, as it forgets the cost to the fishers from the state's recalcitrance. It is a shame to ask for any of it unless an apology is made in the public press to fishers harmed by the state's role. The state has also failed to help Bristol Bay harvesters deal with the Russian zone interceptions of migrating salmon. It should have filed an international lawsuit for compensation due. Instead, more complicity has resulted, as the State backpeddles on even discussing the issue openly with all the facts it knows.

The State has failed repeatedly to represent capitalism and democracy in the pollock allocations, and is doing so now in crab rationalization. The results of both lower grounds prices upon which ASMI taxes are computed. This makes no sense save for corporate greed. And campaign coffers.

What is your role in this? What will you do to represent fishers instead of corporate interests? The People instead of foreign investors who have long had their way with Alaska's resources (exports of both fish and timber at prices that can only be described as corruptly 'on the cheap', Banana Republic style)?

Sincerely,

Stephen Taufen, founder
Groundswell Fisheries Movement

LETTERS TO FISHERIES COMMITTEE

HB 130

Subject: Bristol Bay lawsuit
Date: Mon, 3 Mar 2003 12:41:16 -0500
From: "rod perry" <rperry@mtaonline.net>
To: <Representative_Carl_Moses@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Richard_Foster@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Mary_Kapsner@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Kelly_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Hugh_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Sharon_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Peggy_Wilson@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Paul_Seaton@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Kevin_Meyer@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Albert_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Jim_Holm@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Eric_Croft@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Jim_Whitaker@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Norman_Rokeberg@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Beth_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Mike_Hawker@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Harry_Crawford@legis.state.ak.us>,
<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>, <wloy@adn.com>

Hi,

I have to say I am VERY concerned about this bill being introduced by Weyrauch and Harris. (see article below) They seem to think that if the courts award any money to these fishermen, ASMI is entitiled to much of it. I do not think it is appropriate to be so opportunistic to the point of basically taxing one portion of Alaska's population, with these families having their money (if awarded) stolen from them to support an industry that our family is are NOT even involved with anymore.

What about all of the other fishermen in the state benefitting from ASMI's efforts solely on one group of fishermen forced to give up money that was rightfully theirs in the first place? If ALL fishermen profit from ASMI, then ALL fishermen should contribute equally. Will we as fishermen now have to hire another set of lawyers to sue the State of Alaska?

If and when the courts award this money to the Bristol Bay fishermen, it is because there is proof that there were illegal practices occurring, and we should not have that money that we earned STOLEN from us (AGAIN)!! I STRONGLY encourage you to DEFEAT this or any other such similar bill and also STRONGLY suggest that you investigate as to how much influence Sen. Ben Stevens has on these two individuals. He wanted to take the stand against the fishermen, but the judge would not allow it. Is this his recourse?

Thank you very much for your time on this issue and I look forward to any input from you and your colleages.

Sincerely,

Karen Perry 688-2153

This is the excerpt from the Anchorage Daily News on Friday Feb. 28, 2003 :

The Bristol Bay trial is expected to last until the end of April. So far, lawyers have far outnumbered fishermen in the courtroom.

• A bill introduced in Juneau on Wednesday would, in effect, tax judgments commercial fishermen win in unfair trade practice lawsuits against seafood processors.

The bill specifies that 15 percent of an award or $40 million, whichever is less, shall be deposited in the state's general fund. The intent of the bill is that the Legislature would then appropriate the money to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to promote wild salmon.

If the measure became law, it would be retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year, the bill says.

The sponsors are Reps. Bruce Weyhrauch, R-Juneau, and John Harris, R-Valdez.

The figure cited in the bill, $40 million, is the same amount that lawyers for fishermen in the Bristol Bay case already have collected in settlements from processors and importers. Bristol Bay trial is expected to last until the end of April. So far, lawyers have far outnumbered fishermen in the courtroom.

The Bristol Bay trial is expected to last until the end of April. So far, lawyers have far outnumbered fishermen in the courtroom.

POMS Main Menu

POMS Unviewed Message Summary for Representative Seaton

Main Menu | Extract as Comma Separated Format

Kathleen M Lange
259 Mountain View Dr
259 Mountain View Dr
Homer AK, 99603

Email: silverdove@alaska.net
Constituent
BILL#:
SUBJECT: TAXATION
MESSAGE: The bill to levy 15% tax on fishermen"s judgement wins against processors is not right. You cannot divy up what is not yours. Thats socialism. Remember we are Americans. Stop scrabbling over a piece of pie that isn"t yours to begin with. Money is tight but don"t steal from fishermen.
DISTRIBUTION: 61

Therese R Dirks
Po Box 1132

Homer AK, 99603

Email:
Constituent
BILL#:
SUBJECT: TAXATION
MESSAGE: I OPPOSE THE INCREASE IN FUEL TAX. THIS INCREASE WILL LEAD TO INCREASE IN OTHER COMMODOTIES DUE TO HAVING TO ABSORB THEIR TRANSPORTATION COSTS. SO THE CONSUMER PAYS MORE AT THE PUMP AND MORE AT THE GROCER. MANY WILL HAVE TO WALK.
DISTRIBUTION: 13

Robert-p P Valdatta
Po Box 1267
Po Box 1267
Seward AK, 99664-1267

Email:
Constituent
BILL#:

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: February 26, 2003

FURTHER REFERRALS: Judiciary Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/4/03

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES Committee considered: **HB 130**

HOUSE BILL NO. 130 **UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES; ANTITURST**

"An Act relating to the award of damages, costs, and attorney fees in an action against a seafood processor under certain state laws that prohibit unfair trade practices, monopolies, and restraints of trade; stating legislative intent regarding the appropriation and use of money obtained by the state from the operation of this Act; amending Rules 54, 58, and 82, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [ ] HCS *or* [X] CS *for* HB 130 (FSH)

For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR_____ **[ ] Same Title [X] New Title**

[ ] attach amendments
[ ] add new referral to _____Committee
[ ] Letter of Intent_____Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

***NEW* FISCAL NOTES**
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office

List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
LAW				X

***PREVIOUS* FISCAL NOTES**

List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
				✓	
					✓
	Ogg				
	Wilson			✓	
	SAMUELS			✓	
	STEVENS			✓	
Chair:	SEATON			W	✓
Chair:					

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HB 130
() Publish Date:

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
Dept. Affected: Law
Title "An Act relating to the award of damages, costs, and attorney fees in an action against a seafood processor . . ."
BRU Civil Division
Component Fair Business Practices
Sponsor Representative Weyhrauch
Requester House Special Committee on Fisheries
Component No. 2206

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Under this bill, if a person wins an award of damages, costs, or attorney fees under state laws that prohibit unfair trade practices, monopolies, and restraints of trade against a seafood processor, the court must require 15 percent of the award or $40,000,000, whichever is less, be deposited in the state general fund.

Passage of this legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson
Phone (907) 465-5370
Division Attorney General's Office
Date/Time 4/2/03 10:37 AM
Approved by: Kathryn Daughhetee for Gregg D. Renkes, Attorney General
Date 4/2/2003
Agency Department of Law

(Revised 9/2002 OMB)

23-LS0484\I
Bannister
4/3/03

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WEYHRAUCH, Harris

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to the award of damages, costs, and attorney fees in an action against a person under certain state laws that prohibit unfair trade practices, monopolies, and restraints of trade; stating legislative intent regarding the appropriation and use of money obtained by the state from the operation of this Act; amending Rules 54, 58, and 82, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; and providing for an effective date."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the money obtained from the operation of the provisions of this Act be appropriated to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to market wild salmon of the state.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 45.50 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 45.50.539. Portion paid to state. Notwithstanding any other provision

of AS 45.50.471 - 45.50.561, if a person receives an award of damages, costs, or attorney fees under AS 45.50.471 - 45.50.561, the court shall require that 15 percent or $40,000,000, whichever is less, of the award be deposited into the general fund of the state.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 45.50.576 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if a person receives an award of damages, costs, or attorney fees under AS 45.50.562 - 45.50.596, the court shall require that 15 percent or $40,000,000, whichever is less, of the award be deposited into the general fund of the state.

* **Sec. 4.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

INDIRECT COURT RULE CHANGES. AS 45.50.539, enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, and AS 45.50.576(c), enacted by sec. 3 of this Act, have the effect of amending

(1) Rule 54, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, by requiring the court to require that a certain amount of an award of costs be paid to the state and deposited into the general fund;

(2) Rule 58, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, by requiring the court to require that a certain amount of an award of damages be paid to the state and deposited into the general fund;

(3) Rule 82, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure, by requiring the court to require that a certain amount of an award of attorney fees be paid to the state and deposited into the general fund.

* **Sec. 5.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to an action under AS 45.50.471 - 45.50.561 or AS 45.50.562 - 45.50.596 filed

(1) on or after the effective date of this Act; or

(2) before the effective date of this Act, if a final judgment has not been entered in the action before the effective date of this Act.

* **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

RETROACTIVITY. To the extent permitted by the state and federal constitutions, this Act is retroactive to January 1, 2003.

*** Sec. 7.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

CONDITIONAL EFFECT. This Act takes effect only if sec. 4 of this Act receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

*** Sec. 8.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

HB 130

Unfair Trade Practices:
Anti-Trust

This bill requires any party that brings a case under Alaska's unfair trade practice statutes (AS 45.50) to pay 15%, or $40 million of any damage award, whichever is less, to the State of Alaska. This bill is based upon the legislature's 1997 tort reform statute that requires any person who receives an award of punitive damages to pay 50 percent of the award into the general fund of the state.

This bill bases its 15%, or $40 million figure on that precedent. The bill includes intent language calling for the legislature to appropriate the amount of funds received under this bill to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute for the purposes of marketing wild Alaska salmon. A companion bill, HB 131, continues that intent by making an appropriation of $40 to ASMI.

Under Alaska's unfair trade practice statutes (AS 45.50.576), a person allegedly injured by wrongful conduct may bring a civil action, and seek damages. If the court finds that the person was injured and the defendant's conduct was willful, the plaintiff is automatically awarded treble damages plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. The intent of this bill is to have the state receive 15% of the judgment before costs and attorney's fees from any judgment.

A zero fiscal note and sectional analysis of this bill is attached.

Contact: Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
465-3744

Released: April 2, 2003

If a person receives an award of punitive damages, the court shall require that 50 percent of the award be deposited into the general fund of the state. This subsection does not grant the state the right to file or join a civil action to recover punitive damages.

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(b) When the state, a home rule or general law city or borough, or other governmental entity is injured by reason of a violation of > AS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE DISTRICT 4

ALASKA
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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

Representative_Bruce_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us
www.akrepublicans.org/weyhrauch/

Subject: Fw: Did you sponsor HB130?
Date: Thu, 27 Feb 2003 17:41:38 -0900
From: "JOE MACINKO" <jgmac@ptialaska.net>
To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:@ptialaska.net;>

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Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 5:54 PM
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Sincerely,

Stephen Taufen, founder
Groundswell Fisheries Movement

LETTERS TO FISHERIES COMMITTEE

HB 130

Subject: **Bristol Bay lawsuit**
Date: Mon, 3 Mar 2003 12:41:16 -0500
From: "rod perry" <rperry@mtaonline.net>
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<Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us>, <wloy@adn.com>

Hi,

I have to say I am VERY concerned about this bill being introduced by Weyrauch and Harris. (see article below) They seem to think that if the courts award any money to these fishermen, ASMI is entitiled to much of it. I do not think it is appropriate to be so opportunistic to the point of basically taxing one portion of Alaska's population, with these families having their money (if awarded) stolen from them to support an industry that our family is are NOT even involved with anymore.

What about all of the other fishermen in the state benefitting from ASMI's efforts solely on one group of fishermen forced to give up money that was rightfully theirs in the first place? If ALL fishermen profit from ASMI, then ALL fishermen should contribute equally. Will we as fishermen now have to hire another set of lawyers to sue the State of Alaska?

If and when the courts award this money to the Bristol Bay fishermen, it is because there is proof that there were illegal practices occurring, and we should not have that money that we earned STOLEN from us (AGAIN)!! I STRONGLY encourage you to DEFEAT this or any other such similar bill and also STRONGLY suggest that you investigate as to how much influence Sen. Ben Stevens has on these two individuals. He wanted to take the stand against the fishermen, but the judge would not allow it. Is this his recourse?

Thank you very much for your time on this issue and I look forward to any input from you and your colleages.

Sincerely,

Karen Perry 688-2153

This is the excerpt from the Anchorage Daily News on Friday Feb. 28, 2003 :

The Bristol Bay trial is expected to last until the end of April. So far, lawyers have far outnumbered fishermen in the courtroom.

• A bill introduced in Juneau on Wednesday would, in effect, tax judgments commercial fishermen win in unfair trade practice lawsuits against seafood processors.

The bill specifies that 15 percent of an award or $40 million, whichever is less, shall be deposited in the state's general fund. The intent of the bill is that the Legislature would then appropriate the money to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute to promote wild salmon.

If the measure became law, it would be retroactive to Jan. 1 of this year, the bill says.

The sponsors are Reps. Bruce Weyhrauch, R-Juneau, and John Harris, R-Valdez.

The figure cited in the bill, $40 million, is the same amount that lawyers for fishermen in the Bristol Bay case already have collected in settlements from processors and importers. Bristol Bay trial is expected to last until the end of April. So far, lawyers have far outnumbered fishermen in the courtroom.

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POMS Unviewed Message Summary for Representative Seaton

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Kathleen M Lange
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Homer AK, 99603

Email: silverdove@alaska.net
Constituent
BILL#:
SUBJECT: TAXATION
MESSAGE: The bill to levy 15% tax on fishermen"s judgement wins against processors is not right. You cannot divy up what is not yours. Thats socialism. Remember we are Americans. Stop scrabbling over a piece of pie that isn"t yours to begin with. Money is tight but don"t steal from fishermen.
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Therese R Dirks
Po Box 1132

Homer AK, 99603

Email:
Constituent
BILL#:
SUBJECT: TAXATION
MESSAGE: I OPPOSE THE INCREASE IN FUEL TAX. THIS INCREASE WILL LEAD TO INCREASE IN OTHER COMMODOTIES DUE TO HAVING TO ABSORB THEIR TRANSPORTATION COSTS. SO THE CONSUMER PAYS MORE AT THE PUMP AND MORE AT THE GROCER. MANY WILL HAVE TO WALK.
DISTRIBUTION: 13

Robert-p P Valdatta
Po Box 1267
Po Box 1267
Seward AK, 99664-1267

Email:
Constituent
BILL#: