



Membership Resolution FY16-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE SWAMC MEMBERSHIP STRONGLY OPPOSING ARBITRARY TAXATION ON THE ALASKAN SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, SB 198 proposes a 12.5% tax on gross fisheries ex-vessel value; and,

WHEREAS, HB 358 proposes an unidentified tax assessment on fisheries bycatch of specific species; and,

WHEREAS, HB 251 and companion SB 135 increases the tax assessed on processed AND ex-vessel landings by 1% of gross earnings, a relative tax increase of between 20% and 33%; and,

WHEREAS, this level of taxation may lead to a reallocation of resource away from small-scale independent, coastal Alaskan businesses to better capitalized interests, forgoing public process mandated by AS 16.05.251 that requires the Board of Fish to allocate resource rights; and,

WHEREAS, the seafood industry operates in a highly competitive global economy sector with slim margins, particularly affected in periods of economic adjustment, as is currently the case; and,

WHEREAS, the fishing industry is the largest private sector employer in Alaska, providing many family-sustaining jobs to residents in all parts of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the fishing industry is a well-managed renewable resource that provides a solid economic base for dozens of coastal Alaskan communities; and,

WHEREAS, with State budget cuts reducing funding for public services, a vibrant coastal economy is even more critical for public health and safety services; and,

WHEREAS, targeted taxation avoids the larger structural challenges facing the State, while simultaneously creating undue burden on a productive fisheries sector.

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors and its Membership strongly urges the State to more fully engage with coastal communities and the seafood industry to pursue broad measures that address revenue constraints facing Alaska instead of legislation that targets specific productive industries.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference membership this 4TH Day of March, 2016.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Layton Lockett, President

Doug Griffin, Executive Director

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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