

# Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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January 23, 2012

Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Capitol Building, Room 416  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon and Committee Members,

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, the CDQ group for Bristol Bay has been working with the State of Alaska and CFAB for many years trying to obtain salmon fishing permits for watershed fishermen. We have a Permit Loan Program at BBEDC for all watershed residents of Bristol Bay. I believe that it is the only one in the State of Alaska and with HB 261 and the lower interest rate we may be able to get more locals involved in the fishery.

HB 261 would help our watershed fishermen out greatly, especially our young fishermen. As you know the average age of the commercial fishermen of Bristol Bay is climbing, we need to encourage and support our younger fishermen to get involved. When you have a watershed resident owning a fishing permit, that means three local jobs and important dollars for the community.

Commercial fishing is the main economic engine for Bristol Bay. As most of you know Limited Entry Permits are migrating to outside interests from watershed residents and we need to reverse this trend.

I urge the Alaska Legislature to pass House Bill 261 into law, let's get as many commercial fishing permits into Alaskan's hands as possible.

Thank You

H. Robin Samuelsen Jr.  
President/CEO