

From: Brianna King
To: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
Subject: Action on HB 233
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 7:37:10 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
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Good morning Senator Mackinnon,

I am writing regarding HB 233. I understand that the Senate Finance Committee will be taking a vote on this this morning.

I would like to let know about my experience with the Alaska Education Tax Credit program, and my opinion on how it should be voted on today or tomorrow.

I am currently a grad student in the Fisheries, Aquatic Science, and Technology (FAST) Lab, as well as the Assistant Lab Manager. The funding for my project comes from the At-Sea Processor's Association. With this funding, I can focus on my project, which allows for more scientific creativity and focus.

The sorts of projects that our lab addresses includes:

- Monitoring bycatch (such as Pacific halibut in groundfish trawl fisheries) and determining mortality of this bycatch in reliable ways
 - <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/anita-kroska>
- Monitoring parasites in commercially important species (such as *ichthyophonus* in Pacific halibut) and determining their effect on growth and mortality
 - <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/sioned-sitkiewicz>
- Observing growth and diet in commercially significant species to determine reasons for declines in population (such as Gulf of Alaska halibut and Yukon river King salmon)
 - <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/brian-ritche>
 - <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/jarred-stone>
- Collecting more data for data-poor bycatch species (such as Great Pacific Octopus)
 - <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/ben-jevons>

As well as many more: <https://www.alaskafastlab.org/graduate-students>

All of these projects have very *direct* and *applied* objectives and outcomes to the fisheries industry in Alaska. As you are well aware of, commercial fishing in Alaska is a valuable industry (https://ebooks.alaskaseafood.org/ASMI_Seafood_Impacts_Dec2015/pubData/source/ASMI%20Alaska%20Seafood%20Impacts%20Final%20Dec2015%20-%20low%20res.pdf), and the research that our lab does directly adds to the body of literature to ensure that it continues to be one of the most well-managed and sustainable fisheries in the world.

So, in that vein, I would like to urge the following:

1. Pass HB233 to extend the ETC program. It is critical to education and research in AK fisheries.
2. Do not change the credit schedule. The proposed changes will substantially reduce the efficacy of the program and risk losing millions in industry funding for education and research in AK fisheries.
3. The ETC program is bringing millions into AK education system. It's working, don't break it.

Thank you for your time,



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