



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 13, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson, Chairman
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 24
Juneau AK 99801-1182
Via email: Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov

RE: Support SB 159 and HB 300, air ambulance services.

Dear Chairman Olson,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) supports SB 159 and HB 300 to allow for membership services by airlift/ambulance providers. Like many Alaskans, commercial fishermen face challenges in access to health care due to the remote locations in which most fishermen conduct their fishing operations. Many individuals who work in the seafood industry live in remote communities without access to emergency care facilities.

Last year, many fishermen were alarmed when a popular medical airlift operation was not able to continue its "subscription" which provided yearly coverage for medical transport on a fixed price per family. The cost of emergency airlift services when needed is usually not covered by other insurance, and can far exceed the savings of even the most successful fishermen.

SB 159 and HB 300 would make the changes necessary to State Statutes to allow the airlift providers to once again offer their family subscription coverage. UFA supports SB 159 and HB 300 to help Alaska fishing families, seafood processors, and all Alaskans obtain airlift subscription service.

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 36 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. We encourage passage of SB 159 and HB 300.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julianne Curry', is written over a light blue circular background.

Julianne Curry
Executive Director

CC: Senator Bert Stedman
Representative Cathy Muñoz