

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Governor Mike Dunleavy
3rd Floor, State Capitol Building
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 26, 2020

Governor Dunleavy,


The annual Bristol Bay fishery is rapidly approaching. As the largest salmon fishery in the world, it brings in thousands of American and international workers into Bristol Bay communities. At this point there is no mechanism to screen them, no plans for quarantine should an outbreak occur, and no direction to local leaders for how to proceed given the COVID-19 outbreak. This is a troubling situation and understandably has many in the region deeply concerned about the lack of action to date.

Per the Department of Health and Social Services Health Alert 9.2, your administration advised that non-residents cease any non-essential business travel within Alaska with specific heightened concern for travel to remote areas with limited medical resources. Commercial fishing and seafood processing are a critical part of Bristol Bay's economy and way of life, which makes it essential that a dialogue between your administration, the processors, and local leaders be immediately convened to discuss all measures to protect the communities in the region.

I have heard resoundingly from municipal and tribal leaders who have told me their communities will not be able to handle the potential onslaught of cases brought in by fisheries workers. They fear for the lives of their elders and people with already-compromised immune systems in the face of an already inadequate regional health care system.

I stand ready to assist and am eager to work with you and your administration to do whatever possible to minimize the risk to these communities.

Thank you,


Representative Bryce Edgmon
Alaska Speaker of the House

State Capitol Building
120 East 4th Street, Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: 907 465 4451 Toll Free: 800 898 4451 Fax: 907 465 3445
Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov