

Amy Rostkowycz

From: Tod Williams <todpwilliams55@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 11:17 AM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Subject: HB 4567 HB 4568 HB 4569

Hello Amy Rostkowycz,

I strongly oppose HB 4567, HB 4568, and HB 4569. These bills would adversely affect our commercial fishing business and all other twelve state-licensed commercial fishing families in the State of Michigan. I've been commercial fishing for 41 years and have employed hundreds of people over that time period. Currently we have 10 full time employees and numerous part-time employees. We have been providing fresh high quality, local Great Lakes fish to Michigan consumers since the mid 1800s. We also provide out of state distributors with our quality fish which brings in out of state money into Michigan as well as local MI distributors such as Cherry Capital Foods, Universities such as the University of Michigan, and many local organic grocery stores and restaurants who all care about sourcing local MI fish.

Our company and employees feel that these bills will adversely affect our state licensed fisheries ability to remain profitable and viable. These bills favor only 11 % of the Michigan voting public. I've been a sports-fisherman ever since I could wet a line, so not all sports-fishermen support these bills. Only 11 % of Michigan residents catch their own fish, the rest rely on grocery stores and fish markets to source their fish meals. These bills would limit greatly the amount of local fresh fish that would be available for Michigan consumers. The fish in the waters of the Great Lakes are considered to be property of the State and should be allocated equally among the citizens of Michigan.

Thank you for your time, -Owner and Boat Captain Bay Port Fish Co, Tod Williams

Amy Rostkowycz

From: Joel Petersen [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 7:47 AM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Subject: HB 4567 and 4568 and 4569

Dear Committee Clerk: Amy Rostkowycz,

My name is Joel Petersen. I am a fourth generation commercial fishermen operating from two ports from Lake Michigan. Muskegon with our family business Petersen's Fisheries and from Leland operating under Joel Petersen Fisheries LLC in cooperation with Fishtown Preservation Society.

These are bad bills for Michigan. These bills do absolutely zero to help our commercial fishermen along with our industry to become sustainable and to operate in an economical and profitable manner.

I oppose HB 4567 HB 4568 and HB 4569.

These are bad bills for the State of Michigan and our state licensed commercial fishermen along with the the industries that rely on our commercial fishermen. That's every store, fish market and restaurant within the State of Michigan that sells our Great Lakes fish caught by our commercial fishermen. The billion dollar tourist industry's will suffer vastly.

House Committee of Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation, please vote NO on HB 4567 HB 4568 and HB 4569. Our livelihoods depend on it.

Thank you,
Michigan resident, commercial fishermen and tax payer Joel Petersen

Amy Rostkowycz

From: Lakon Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 10:34 AM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Subject: HB 4567 HB 4568 HB 4569

Hello Amy Rostkowycz,

We are writing you today to say that we strongly oppose HB 4567, HB 4568, and HB 4569. These are destructive bills for the State of Michigan, the few state-licensed commercial fisheries left, and multiple other industries that rely on our commercial fisheries. Many restaurants, universities, organic stores, and grocery stores rely on locally sourced Michigan fish and they like variety for their customers. The tourist industry would suffer as well in Michigan because many of us would be put out of business if these bills pass. We cannot afford the new fees proposed with the addition of removing species such as Yellow Perch from our current acceptable commercial species list. We are already currently excluded from Walleye and Lake Trout harvest, where all other fisheries have quotas for both species. They are on our commercial approved species list, but we are not allowed quota of them as of yet. These House Bills would also remove them from our commercial approved list making it impossible for us to ever be able to fish these species. The Sports fishermen are allowed a Lake Trout and Walleye quota, so are Native American fisheries and Canadian Fisheries. U.S. State Licensed fisheries are excluded from a quota for no good reasons. A fun fact..there are only around 1 million people that sports fish in Michigan, that means there is 8 million non fishers that rely on us to speak for their rights to buy fresh local fish.

There is only 13 families left that own about 30 active state licenses in Michigan, we are the most historical industry in Michigan along with the logging industry. Our town Bay Port, has been a commercial fishing town since the 1840s, and our business was incorporated in 1895. We have been supporting the local community for almost 200 years with commercial fishing in Bay Port. My family has owned this company for 41 years and I hope it is still profitable in 15 years, so I can pass it on to the third generation. Our History is meant to be kept alive and cherished, not extinguished. Our livelihoods depend on this committee!

Thank you for your time, - Bay Port Fish Co owner, Lakon Williams

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Lakon Williams

