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Fishermen support Zharoff

To the editor:

I am writing to support Sen. Fred Zharoff's position that House Bill 25 should be held in committee. Seafood irradiation, although an issue with some consumer groups, is not an issue with fishermen from Western Alaska.

The fact that the Food and Drug Administration has not authorized the use of irradiation on seafood in the United States should address any present concern expressed by proponents of HB 25.

If the FDA changed their position, the opponents of irradiation would have at least some basis for legislation to ban the sale or importation of seafood. Presently, they do not.

In addition, I know of no processors

who are interested in irradiating seafood in Alaska. Why even discuss the issue of banning sale or importation of irradiated seafoods if there is nothing to ban.

We will have the opportunity to review information and make informed decisions at a future time.

We should not preclude any potential opportunities by banning them before we have all the facts.

Sen. Zharoff has a constructive and responsive position on HB 25.

Sincerely,
Henry Mitchell
Executive Director
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
Anchorage

Food irradiation is criticized

To the editor:

Sen. Fred Zharoff, D-Kodiak, is a man with the single-minded mission to kill House Bill 25.

HB 25 is the bill that will ban the sale of irradiate food in Alaska.

The bill has passed the state House with overwhelming support for three legislative sessions only to be halted in state Senate finance subcommittee by Sen. Zharoff.

Zharoff has been sitting on HB 25 in this subcommittee created by himself and consisting only of himself for the past two legislative sessions.

Despite the fact that proposed ethics reforms would take the power for killing a bill away from any one senator, Zharoff has the power to kill HB 25.

Killing HB 25 will not help Sen. Zharoff reach his goals to protect food irradiation research and create a receptive climate for seafood irradiation in Alaska.

The senator should examine the

consequences of killing HB 25.

Alaskans Concerned About Food Irradiation, Food and Water Inc., Food Irradiation Network of Japan, the International Organization of Consumer Unions, Consumers United for Food Safety, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, and other state, national and international public interest groups will help to educate the seafood industry about the severe market damage that will result should Alaska embrace food irradiation.

If Sen. Zharoff kills HB 25, we are prepared to launch a campaign to make sure there is no industry support for food irradiation.

We urge Sen. Zharoff to re-examine his priorities and to support HB 25 or a compromise two year ban on the sale of irradiated food in Alaska.

Sincerely,
Joy Griffin
Alaskans Concerned About
Food Irradiation
Fairbanks