

Board members, Mr Chairman,

My name is Braden Williams. I am 19 years old and I am a Bristol Bay fisherman. I was raised in Bristol Bay and attended school in Naknek up until the 8th grade . I'm a 5th generation Bristol bay drift gillnetter and have fished with my Dad in Bristol Bay since I was 10 yrs old. I am in full support the adoption of Proposal # 51

I have saved my money over the years and last year I purchased my first drift permit. My Dad and I rebuilt an older 32 foot Marco last winter and the summer of 2015 was my first season as an owner/operator in Bristol Bay. This is kind of a big deal for me. I am 19 years old and now I have permit and boat payments. I want to be a fisherman. My biggest fear is that the money I saved, the experience I've gained through hard work, and now with the extremely low prices, it may not be possible for my investment to support itself.

I have been hearing testimony in opposition to permit stacking saying that allowing two permits in one name will make it harder for young people to get involved because permits will cost more. I am one of those young people and I would much prefer to have to spend more

to buy a permit to participate in a profitable fishery than buy a cheap permit and battle more boats and gear in the district I fish.

I have also heard multiple people testify that adopting permit stacking will disadvantage watershed residents because watershed residents don't have access to the capital that non residents do; those arguments are just false. The BBEDC programs set in place make tens of thousands of dollars available to watershed residents in the form of grants and loans with interest rate assistance and principal forgiveness to pay for vessel upgrades, rsw system purchases and permit purchase, whereas non-residents do not get to indulge in those kind of benefits. I'd like to refer you to RC # 63 to see documents describing those programs.

I believe allowing permit stacking will benefit all Bristol Bay fishermen, residents and non residents. Those that fish dual permits and those that fish single permits. Bristol Bay with permit stacking will make more fish available to every user by removing 100 fathoms of gear from the water for every additional boat that fishes dual permits. As I said before I want to be a fisherman. Please give me and my fellow Bristol Bay fishermen the tools to be successful . THANK YOU