



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

March 4, 2024

Submitted electronically via: House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

Chair Representative Sarah Vance
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Support for SJR 14, "Support State Seafood Industry"

Dear Chair Representative Vance, and Members of the House Fisheries Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) writes in support SJR 14, which would call on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of Alaska's seafood industry.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit trade association founded in 1975. Our membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, tourism, forestry, mining, and oil and gas industries and includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

The seafood industry is one of the largest employment and economic drivers in Alaska, directly employing 58,700 people, creating an additional 10,000 secondary jobs, and producing more than \$5 billion in economic activity in Alaska every year. It also comprises our largest manufacturing sector. Unfortunately, the Alaska seafood industry, which produces about 60% of the nation's commercial fisheries, is facing unprecedented national and international challenges ranging from unfavorable trade policy and regulations, reduced consumer demand and high inventories, and higher operational costs and inflation.

SJR 14 would help advocate for much needed national support for Alaska's seafood industry by asking the Federal government to provide the seafood industry with similar protections currently given to other sources of domestic food production and encourage the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other federal agencies to provide various interagency support mechanisms for the seafood industry.



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As an ardent and long-time supporter of Alaska's seafood industry, RDC urges you to move SJR 14 out of House Fisheries Committee in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Leila Kimbrell
Executive Director

CC:

Senator Click Bishop
Representative Jennie Armstrong
Representative Sara Hannan
Representative Dan Ortiz
Representative Louise Stutes



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