



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

February 7, 2011

Representative Paul Seaton
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB59 - Commercial Fishing Loan Act

Dear Representative Seaton:

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC), I am writing in support of HB59 - Commercial Fishing Loan Act.

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership 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.

Throughout the last several years, Alaskans have been struggling with high energy costs. Fuel costs and usage have escalated as fisherman are required to go further out for catch due to impacts from endangered species listings, critical habitat designations, marine protected areas, and fish movement. Opportunities to improve energy efficiency through state loans are important not only for the pocket books of the fisherman who harvest over half of this nation's total catch, but also for the environment—increased efficiency will likely lead to lower costs and ultimately decreased carbon emission. Encouraging such improvements/upgrades to be completed instate, as this bill provides, allows for even more benefits to be felt within Alaska.

We encourage the committee to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator

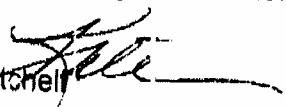
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Northern Marine Canvas Products

Subject: Made in Alaska

NOMAR (Northern Marine Canvas Products) has been in business in Homer Alaska since 1978. We have slowly built our business by supplying products for the Commercial Fisheries. It was 1985 that the NOMAR trailer bag was introduced as a method of quickly delivery salmon in a way that improved the quality of the salmon being delivered. It is now the standard for delivering salmon in Alaska. Next we introduced The Slush Bag. Or what we fondly refer to as Poor mans RSW (refrigerated sea water) This simple waterproof Bin Liner holds the ice and sea water. The chilled ice water circulates thru the salmon chilling for maximum quality. These were simple ways that an Alaskan company answered the need to improve the quality of our Alaskan Salmon. I am delighted to put my support behind HB 59. It will serve two fold to support Alaskan manufacture with a cash incentive to fishermen to choose Alaskan made products. There have been many loan programs to support our fishermen in building their businesses. This is something that will help the Alaska businesses on the beach- who help keep Alaskans fishing.


Kate Mitchell
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104 EAST PIONEER AVENUE HOMER, ALASKA 99603

Katie Koester

From: Coastal Refrigeration [mandj@spitwspots.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 13, 2011 2:28 PM
To: Katie Koester
Subject: Re: HB59

Categories: Katie

Ladies and Gentleman of our Legislature, Regarding HB 59

I am a small Manufacturer of Refrigerated Sea Water systems for fishing vessels (RSW systems) We have been doing this since 1979 here in Homer Alaska, and are limited to building 3 or 4 systems a year because of price, and lack of orders, preventing us from keeping a crew together year round.

The freight, insurance, and wages required to sustain a business or family here, are far greater than in the lower 48. Mind you I have no problem paying high wages, refrigeration men (who are good mechanics), are expensive, but its the freight and insurance costs here which have become outrageous, incentive killers, accounting for over 20 percent of our gross. The greatest advantage we have is living here with the fleet, it enables us to not only build a better system, but to respond faster to emergency breakdowns when they occur. My hope is that this bill will provide sufficient incentive to our Alaskan fisherman to cause them to turn inward (if you will) thereby creating more small business for our State Thanks for listening and thanks for this bill. Granpa Jerry ,Original Message -----

From: Katie Koester
To: mandj@spitwspots.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 12:00 PM
Subject: HB59

Hi Jerry,

Thanks for taking the time to write a quick email about what your business can offer to commercial fishing revolving loan fund borrowers.

I have attached a sponsor statement that outlines the bill and a copy of the bill.

Best,

Katie Koester
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Seaton
907.235.2921