

PSPA
PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION
Est. 1914

February 1, 2009

Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Chairman
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 20 – Commercial Fishing Loans for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Dear Chairman Edgmon:

Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) is a trade association of seafood processing companies with operations in many locations throughout coastal Alaska, including Ketchikan, Sitka, Kodiak, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, Valdez, Dillingham, Naknek, Pederson Point, Togiak, Port Moller, and King Cove.

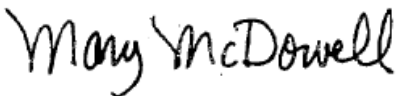
PSPA's member companies themselves, the communities in which they operate, and the fishermen to whom our member companies provide markets, are all struggling with high energy costs. The profitability and economic viability of Alaska's processors and harvesters alike, depend on the ability to increase energy efficiency and contain energy costs.

In expanding the provisions of the state's commercial fishing loan program to allow fishermen to obtain loans to increase the energy efficiency of their vessels, HB 20 does not *directly* affect or benefit seafood processors. However, a healthy, viable, energy efficient harvesting sector is important to the overall success of the entire industry. Thus, HB 20, in helping Alaska's fishing fleet move toward energy efficiency, will benefit fishermen, seafood processors and other fisheries-dependent businesses, Alaska communities, and the overall economy and revenues of the state.

PSPA appreciates your sponsorship of HB20 and your prompt scheduling of the bill for a hearing in the House Fisheries Committee.

We encourage legislators to support the bill and move it quickly through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Mary McDowell,
Vice President

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