



March 15, 2012

Rep. Bill Thomas, Co-Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Thomas,

We are writing in support of House Bill 261; an Act relating to loans for the purchase of commercial fishing entry permits.

The Alaska Marine Conservation Council (AMCC) is a community-based organization dedicated to protecting the long-term health of Alaska's oceans and sustaining the working waterfronts of our coastal communities. Our membership of over 800 includes fishermen, subsistence harvesters, marine scientists, small business owners and families. Our ways of life, livelihoods and local economies depend on healthy fisheries and access to them.

House Bill 261 provides Alaskans with the means to maintain a stake in our fisheries at a time when the cost of entry is rising. In particular HB 261 ensures that young Alaskans are not prevented from pursuing a future in fishing due to limited access to capital. In this way HB 261 strengthens our fishing families and communities by safeguarding our access to the resources we depend on.

Alaskan access to Alaska fisheries is central to maintaining our working waterfronts and the overall health and vitality of our coastal communities. We strongly support HB 261 and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Kelly Harrell  
Executive Director

Cc: Representative Bill Stolze  
Representative Bryce Edgmon

*healthy oceans ... healthy communities*

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