

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Steve Thompson, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Capitol, Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Thompson:

I write to you in strong support of HB141 and urge your committee to pass this legislation on to the Finance Committee.

The City and Borough of Yakutat is one of the 42 communities on the coast of Alaska that are eligible for the Community Quota Entity program. Like all but two of these communities, Yakutat has been unable to initiate the purchase of quota shares for our own CQE due to the very high value of these shares in today's market.


The current loan program administered by the Alaska Department of Commerce (DCCED) does not reflect current economic factors, and is not realistically useful for the coastal communities the CQE program intends to help.

HB 141 makes several important changes to the Alaska loan program that will enable Yakutat to begin to operate our CQE. This will provide very positive opportunities for our local fishermen and our community-owned seafood processing plant, the largest employer in Yakutat. Enabling communities such as ours to access the valuable resources off our shores will significantly benefit our local economy by providing base economic

activity. Revenues generated will accrue not only to our resident fishermen, but will also offer the opportunity to fund other local services such as schools.

The City and Borough of Yakutat is very grateful to the sponsors of HB 141 for their efforts in recognition of coastal seafood economies. We look forward to participating in the CQE program, and we strongly urge the House Special Committee on Fisheries to pass this legislation to the next committee of referral.

Sincerely,



Frank Ryman, Manager
City and Borough of Yakutat