



*Wild, Natural & Sustainable®*

March 20, 2014

Senate Finance Committee

RE: Funding the Fish Tissue Testing Program in the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members;

The Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) regularly fields inquiries related to the purity and wholesomeness of Alaska seafood. These inquiries come from both within the USA and from abroad (particularly Europe), and from both commercial buyers and consumers of Alaska Seafood. The purity and contaminants issue is a regular and re-occurring concern in the marketplace, with particular anxiety over mercury, organochlorines, heavy metals, and of late, radionuclides. We frequently refer to the DEC fish monitoring program data, and send interested parties to the DEC database. It is important that data be both comprehensive, and current.

Purity of Alaska Seafood is an important element in the marketing our Alaska's seafood products.

Sincerely,

Randy Rice  
Seafood Technical Director