



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)

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March 21, 2013

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 411
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 288 Arctic Infrastructure Letter of Support

Dear Representative Herron:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 288 "An Act creating the Arctic Infrastructure and development program and fund in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority."

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit Community Development Quota (CDQ) organization. The CDQ program was created by Congress in 1992 to spur fisheries-related economic development and to develop stable local economies in our member communities. Through participation in the CDQ program, APICDA has built a seafood company responsibly harvesting, processing and marketing wild Alaska crab, pollock, cod, black cod, halibut, salmon and other species from the Bering Sea and Pacific Ocean. APICDA invests profits earned from Alaska fisheries into the future of its member communities – rural Alaska villages in the Aleutian Pribilof region – by providing scholarships, vocational education, funding for substance abuse programs, school grants, infrastructure development, local business development and other benefits.

HB 288 includes a provision that authorizes AIDEA to finance large-scale fisheries and encourage additional local ownership of Alaska fisheries. While there are other available state and federal finance programs, none provide the resources necessary to fully engage in large-scale fisheries. APICDA, and the communities we serve, have benefited greatly from the CDQ program. We support the AIDEA fisheries program even though APICDA, as a CDQ group will not qualify as a majority owner under the proposed program, because we believe other Alaska communities should have the opportunity to enter the federal fisheries industry. APICDA strongly supports increased local Alaska ownership of Alaska fisheries.

Thank you for your work to expand Arctic fisheries and infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Larry Cotter
Chief Executive officer