

20 March 2015

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair House Special Committee on Fisheries State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Stutes,

I am writing to express our Association's strong support for HCR 10, supporting the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Advisory Committee and further efforts to carry out the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan. Our Association has participated in the three year collaborative process to develop the Plan and I look forward to continuing to serve on the Industry Advisory Committee.

We have supported this initiative because we would like to see more Alaskans in our plants filling those positions requiring specialty training, skills, and experience. These are high paying jobs with many of them offering opportunity for year round employment. By better linking maritime employer labor requirements with training and workforce development entities, the Workforce Development Plan will help enable Alaskans to better compete for these types of jobs in not just seafood processing plants, but across the broader range of the maritime industry.

Adding the Legislature's voice of support, through HCR10, to this initiative will help encourage a wide range of state agencies to participate in this effort, increasing our chances for success. Creating employment opportunities for Alaskans while strengthening the economic competitiveness of Alaska's maritime industries is especially timely given the realities of the state's current fiscal situation.

We are grateful to you and Representative Edgmon for sponsoring this Resolution; thank you for doing that. Please let me know if I can provide you or your staff any further information.

Sincerely,

John V. O'Shea Vice President - Alaska

Cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon

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