



Ketchikan Marine Industry Council

An Annex of the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

April 2, 2015

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

I write this letter to express the Ketchikan Marine Industry Council's support for HCR 10, "A Resolution supporting the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Industry Advisory Committee and further efforts to carry out the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan."

The Ketchikan Marine Industry Council (KMIC) is an industry-led initiative supporting growth and expansion of Ketchikan's diverse maritime economy. Our definition of "maritime" includes numerous value-added and knowledge-based sectors, including transportation, shipbuilding and repair, fishing and seafood processing, marine vendors, safety and environmental services, construction, logistics, and professional and technical services, as well as port, harbor, and energy infrastructure. KMIC is supported by funding provided by 15 private sector businesses and an economic development grant administered through the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. The organization's efforts represent and benefit over 200 marine sector businesses in the greater Ketchikan region, and we wholly support the growth and development of the marine industries throughout Southeast Alaska and across the entire state.

The expansion of the marine industries depends upon the existence of a skilled and professional workforce. We believe that the Alaska Maritime Workforce Development Plan and the Industry Advisory Committee's intentions for implementation of this plan are sound and precisely what the maritime industry needs to increase Alaska hire and grow our state's economy in the long term. Education that is shaped by industry input is vital for lasting change, and this plan—along with the existence of an Industry Advisory Committee—is an important first step. HCR 10, its support for these efforts, and its representation of government engagement through both the legislature and various state agencies is equally laudable.

HCR 10 expresses the legislature's support for Alaskan hire, economic growth in an increasingly understood economic sector, and responsible solutions to increase wealth and revenues. For these reasons, the Ketchikan Marine Industry Council wholeheartedly supports HCR 10. Thank you for your service, and for your attention to the marine industries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chelsea Goucher".

Chelsea Goucher, Project Coordinator
Ketchikan Marine Industry Council
P: (907) 225-3184
C: (907) 220-2133
E: chelsea@ketchikanchamber.com

2417 Tongass Avenue, Suite 223 A
P.O. Box 5957
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Chelsea Goucher
Phone: 907-225-3184
info@ketchikanchamber.com