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March 2, 2017

Representative Daniel Ortiz
State Capitol, Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for HB 76 – Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Representative Ortiz,

The Alaska Shellfish Growers Association (ASGA) would like to express support for HB 76. We recognize that HB 76 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska, and we greatly appreciate legislative actions that assist us in building a vibrant industry supporting the diversification of Alaska's economy.

HB 76 allows for shellfish and seaweed hatcheries to apply for loan funds from the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund. This will provide an important source of support for these new hatcheries. We have expressed support in the past for fine-tuning the Mariculture loan fund to better meet the needs of industry, and making these funds available to hatcheries as well as growers is an excellent mechanism to provide capital to develop necessary infrastructure.

Additionally, we understand the Governors Mariculture Task Force would like to work with your office to make changes changes to HB 76 to more fully meet the needs of our developing industry and to accommodate provisions included with the passage of HB 128. We appreciate your consideration of their input.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo Reveil".

Margo Reveil, President
Alaska Shellfish Growers Association

Cc: Representative Stutes, Chair, House Fisheries Committee: Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov
Reid Harris, Staff, House Fisheries Committee: Reid.Harris@akleg.gov