

**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION # 2016-XX**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS' KODIAK SEAFOOD AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER, FORMERLY, AND IN ALASKA STATUTE (TITLE 16 CHAPTER 52), REFERRED TO AS THE FISHERY INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER (FITC)

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is currently facing fiscal difficulties as a result of an overdependence on oil prices and needs a more diversified base of income and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has an abundance of other natural resources, including a rich and robust abundance of fish that drives Alaska's largest economic employment sector, it is imperative that this resource is well managed to ensure it is sustainably and safely harvested, processed, marketed, and distributed to provide the maximum benefit and value to the State of Alaska

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center, known in Alaska Statute as the Fisheries Industrial Technology Center (FITC) in Kodiak, was created by the University in response to a charge by the Alaska Legislature (Title 16 Chapter 52) to represent an applied science partnership between the fishing industry, coastal communities and the University where members of the Alaska Seafood Industry (harvesters, processors and community members) present the questions they need answered and scientists at FITC endeavor to answer them.

WHEREAS, academic research represents a core mission of UAF, applied research supports the jobs, industry and economic vitality of the communities the University of Alaska is charged to serve.

WHEREAS, Applied Seafood Research conducted by FITC scientists staff, students and visiting scientists has improved fishery processing technology, stock sustainability, seafood safety, processing efficiency, food preservation and increased catch utilization across the state; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) has announced the closure of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center in Kodiak, the transfer of the Alfred Owen Building's administrative home, the transfer of remaining faculty and the dismantling of the seafood processing Pilot Plant; and

WHEREAS, the decision to close the facility was conducted without consultation with FITC staff, fishing communities, industry or others dependent of the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, the FITC facility and equipment are critical to achieving the mission; and

WHEREAS, the sudden and unexpected decision by the UAF to close the FITC at the end of the fiscal year suggests that UAF is preparing to abandon both a commitment to applied fisheries research as well as the close community and industry partnerships that provide the foundation for a healthy University system; and

WHEREAS, the key to an effect response to a fiscal crisis is transparent and collaborative dialogue with the citizenry it serves; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KODIAK ISLAND BOROUGH, that the University of Alaska maintain FITC research, facilities, equipment and staff through fiscal year 2017 to allow sufficient time for the University and Alaska's communities to discuss challenges and opportunities related to the mission, operation and funding of the FITC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that new university leaders in the offices of statewide system president, UAF chancellor and UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences dean engage in open dialogue with Alaska's fishing communities relative to the preservation of the FITC as a focus of the universities commitment to the critical need for applied fisheries research.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2015

Signed:

Bob Harcharek, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Submitted by: Kodiak Island Borough
Contact Name: Larry LeDoux

Date Submitted: November 5, 2015
Contact Phone #: (907) 942-7011

Implementation Recommendation:

Agencies to Contact:

Funding Required:

Staff/Board/Membership Action:

Mayor
City of Kodiak Pat Blais
Mim McConnell, City + Bor. of Sitka
Dick Coose, City of Ketchikan
David Jack, City + Bor. of Wrangell
MARK JENSEN Petersburg Borough