

**KODIAK ARCHIPELAGO RURAL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM  
RESOLUTION 04-2017**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATION IMPROVING  
ALASKANS' ACCESS TO ALASKA FISHERIES**

**WHEREAS**, limited entry commercial fisheries are the economic backbone of Alaska's coastal communities, from Southeast to Southwest;

**WHEREAS**, Alaska communities, fishermen, and fishing families depend on commercial fisheries as a uniquely viable economic opportunity in regions where other economic opportunities are limited;

**WHEREAS**, out-migration of permits has hit rural Alaska communities hardest, leading to fewer jobs, lost economic activity, and interrupting the transmission of specialized skills and knowledge which emerging fishermen learn from established members of their fleet;

**WHEREAS**, prospective Alaska fishermen, especially from small communities, face significant barriers to entry and need additional options for accessing the credit and financing necessary to enter commercial fisheries;

**WHEREAS**, regional fisheries trusts as demonstrated in other regions have great potential to help Alaska fishing communities generate economic opportunity, invest in local commercial fisheries, and ensure continuity of fishing culture;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum strongly supports legislation, including HB 188, improving access to Alaska fisheries in order to stem the loss of Alaska fishing permits from coastal communities, help emerging fishermen access economic opportunity, and reinvigorate the cultural and economic vitality of fishing communities across Alaska.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the 47 leaders from Akhiok, Kodiak, Larsen Bay, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions attending the Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum on April 27, 2017.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Marty Shuravloff, Chairman