



Brevig Mission Diomedes Elim Gambell Golovin Koyuk Nome Saint Michael Savoonga Shaktoolik Stebbins Teller Unalakleet Wales White Mountain

May 18, 2017

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins  
State Capitol, Room 411  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov)

RE: Support for HB 188

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support on behalf of the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) for your efforts to introduce and implement the Regional Fisheries Trust program through House Bill (HB) 188. Access to fishing opportunity is paramount to the economic and social success of coastal Alaska residents, and we appreciate the solution-based approach to addressing this growing problem that this bill provides.

NSED is the northernmost of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations, representing 15 communities in the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region. A fundamental purpose of the program we're organized under is to ensure sustained participation in regional fisheries by residents of our communities. NSED has and continues to make significant investments with this focus, including construction and operation of multiple processing facilities and a tender vessel fleet to support resident fishermen. We also offer a robust loan program to provide opportunity for entry-level and seasoned fishermen alike.

The Regional Fisheries Trust program envisioned in HB 188 would complement NSED and other CDQ organizations' efforts in the western coastal communities of the Bering Sea, as well as fisheries-dependent communities in the Gulf of Alaska. Loss of fishery permits from adjacent communities is a concern that all of Alaska should share, and the Regional Fisheries Trust program shows significant promise to restoring opportunity to those who need it most. Rural coastal communities stand to benefit greatly from retention and restoration of access to fisheries, and we're happy to support your efforts.

Sincerely,

Janis Ivanoff  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Dan Harrelson  
Board Chairman

*"NSED will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities."*