

Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Stutes
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

We write today in support of HCR 2 and the continued work of the Alaska Ocean Cluster on behalf of Alaska's blue economy. SWAMC has been interested with the Alaska Ocean Cluster since late 2019 and can attest to its dedication to vibrant coastal economies across the state, its promotion of a diversified and resilient state economy that creates value from ocean resources, and its work to build a statewide innovation and entrepreneurship networks focused on our oceans.

SWAMC is interested in working directly with the Alaska Ocean Cluster team in 2021 to encourage Mariculture projects in SW Alaska. The five elements of their mariculture strategy are strongly aligned with our long-term Economic Development Regional Plan and research that our staff has done to identify a successful approach to diversifying our regional economic maritime base.

As outlined in the Resolution, the Alaska Ocean Cluster has been working to advance Alaska's ocean economy since 2017, by partnering with other ocean industry growth initiatives and private companies around the state, country, and world. It has already leveraged federal funding from the Economic Development Administration to develop programs that are currently benefitting communities around the State. In order to expand its work, the support of the Legislature would be valuable, signifying buy-in from the State of Alaska.

We urge swift passage of HCR 2.

Thank you,



Shirley Marquardt, Executive Director

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
3300 Arctic Blvd, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 562-7380
smarquardt@swamc.org



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marquardt", is written in a cursive style.

Shirley Marquardt

Executive Director
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference
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ALASKA RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

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April 7, 2021

Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

The Alaska Research Consortium (ARC) is writing in support of HCR 2 and the continued work of the Alaska Ocean Cluster on behalf of Alaska's blue economy. We understand and support the concept of the Alaska Ocean Cluster for our state and we are in discussions with the group about potential partnerships. The Alaska Ocean Cluster has a broad vision for the blue economies of Alaska.

The Alaska Research Consortium was formed in 2016 at a time when the University of Alaska was considering closing or repurposing the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC). KSMSC is a perfect example of an "ocean cluster hub" for Alaska with its seafood processing pilot plant and a long history of seafood product development, including some of the best work in the country on fish and shellfish byproducts that are often discarded. ARC recently completed a project titled, "Alaska's Seafood Future" looking at the need for continued applied seafood research in our state, currently non-existent, due to lack of capacity funding. Partnering with the Alaska Ocean Cluster can lead to new, creative opportunities and collaborations to continue this important work.

As outlined in the Resolution, the Alaska Ocean Cluster has been working to advance Alaska's ocean economy since 2017, by partnering with other ocean industry growth initiatives and private companies around the state, country, and world. It has already leveraged federal funding from the Economic Development Administration to develop programs that are currently benefitting communities around the State. In order to expand its work, the support of the Legislature would be valuable, signifying buy-in from the State of Alaska.

We urge swift passage of HCR 2.

Thank you,



Jay Stinson, President

Alaska Research Consortium
Alaskaresearchconsortium.org



Bering Sea Fishermen's Association

821 N Street, Suite 103

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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April 7, 2021

Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Stutes
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HCR 2 - SUPPORTING ALASKA OCEAN CLUSTER

Dear Speaker Stutes:

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) is in full support of HCR 2 in service of Alaska's blue economy. BSFA created the Alaska Ocean Cluster (AOC) in 2017 to promote and enhance maritime industry growth and prosperity in Alaska.

Modeled after experiences in Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Canada, the cluster concept involves a coalition of private, public and academic stakeholders forming around a base industry and, in the process, supporting both the industry and each other through economic transactions and circulated assets. Capturing greater economic value from local and sustainable ocean resources is an opportunity of increasing importance as Alaska's economy recedes into a deeper recession.

BSFA serves 128 communities in the Bristol Bay, Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim regions of Alaska. Since 1979, BSFA has served these communities in the areas of economic development, interdisciplinary fisheries research, policy and regulatory design and implementation as well as to incubate initiatives which serve to support capacity development of residents and regional entities to strengthen and engage in their local economies.

As outlined in the Resolution, AOC works to advance Alaska's ocean economy by partnering with other ocean industry growth initiatives and private companies around the state, country, and world. We have leveraged federal funding from the Economic Development Administration to develop programs currently benefitting communities around the state. Support from the 32nd Legislature of the State of Alaska would prove valuable, signifying an understanding of the benefit potential ahead for the State of Alaska.

We strongly encourage passage of HCR 2 and are eager to continue promoting and growing Alaska's ocean industries with your support.

Thank you,

Karen Gillis
Executive Director

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association Board of Directors

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Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Stutes
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

We write today in support of HCR 2 and the continued work of the Alaska Ocean Cluster on behalf of Alaska's blue economy. I am the founder of PolArctic, an artificial intelligence firm dedicated to using the latest in data science technology to tackle some of the arctic's biggest challenges. As an Alaska Native, I was born and raised in Anchorage and addressing Alaskan needs is one of the reasons I originally founded PolArctic. PolArctic was introduced to the Alaska Ocean Cluster through the Arctic Economic Council (AEC) in March of 2020. Since that time, we have been in constant dialogue in how to best apply artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) models to enhance the value of the Alaskan blue economy.

Alaska Ocean Cluster's knowledge and experience in various sectors that comprise the blue economy has been invaluable to our exploration, development, and application of our technology to best meet the evolving needs of Alaska. We have reviewed many accelerators and economic investment groups and have found that the Alaska Ocean Cluster not only brings value to companies looking to expand business opportunities in Alaska, but their efforts are focused on economic diversification across Alaskan cities in an effort to build resiliency into the Alaskan economy.

Additionally, the Alaska Ocean Cluster provides world class representation of Alaska to the pan-Arctic community involved in enhancing the blue economy. They are members of the Blue Economy Working Group for the AEC and they champion Alaska's values and contributions to the global markets. Through their connections with top industry experts and leaders, they are able to connect the innovation of Alaskan entrepreneurs with the emerging needs of a growing blue market economy. An endorsement from the Legislature would be valuable, signifying buy-in from the State of Alaska

We urge swift passage of HCR 2.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Canavera', is written over the typed name and title.

Leslie Canavera
CEO, PolArctic LLC