

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



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3300 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99503 p: 907.562.7380 www.swamc.org

Alaska Peninsula
Aleutian Chain
Bristol Bay
Kodiak Island
Pribilof Islands

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shirley Marquardt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shirley Marquardt

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