

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/29/00

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS AUSTERMAN, Lincoln, Leman, Taylor, Elton, Cowdery

REPRESENTATIVES Wilson, Chenault, Stevens, Kerttula, Harris

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to imports of salmon from Chile.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** salmon farms produced almost 1,800,000,000 pounds of product
4 worldwide in 1999; and

5 **WHEREAS** Chile is the growing giant of the farmed salmon industry; and

6 **WHEREAS** imports of farmed salmon from Chile have grown by 120 percent in the
7 last five years, and Chile is now the world leader in the farmed salmon industry, with
8 production expected to grow significantly each year; and

9 **WHEREAS** the total 1999 Alaska salmon harvest was only 898,600,000 pounds; and

10 **WHEREAS** the harvest of salmon in Alaska can increase only fractionally due to
11 natural factors and the inherent conditions associated with the harvest of wild salmon; and

12 **WHEREAS** salmon farms in Chile operate in a low-cost labor environment with
13 heavy government subsidization and without the regulatory constraints that govern the Alaska
14 fishing industry, giving Chile a major advantage in the costs of production; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaska salmon is harvested by independent fishermen and is processed in
16 plants that bring critical economic benefits to many remote Alaska communities; and

1 **WHEREAS** the commercial fishing industry in Alaska is the largest private sector
2 employer in Alaska, and wild salmon is the primary product for most coastal fishing ports in
3 Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** the bulk of the harvest of Alaska salmon is marketed as a fresh product
5 from May through October, and Chile can supply fresh farmed salmon throughout the year,
6 making it difficult for our fishermen to sell Alaska salmon in the domestic market;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United
8 States Department of State, while negotiating trade agreements with Chile, to consider the
9 numerous negative effects that farmed salmon from Chile has on the economy of Alaska; and
10 be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
12 imposition of import restrictions and increased import tariffs on salmon products from Chile.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Colin Powell, United States
14 Secretary of State; the Honorable Don Evans, United States Secretary of Commerce; and to
15 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
16 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.