

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

2010

Source
CSSJR 27(RES)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
37



Urging the federal government to provide funding for domestic seafood marketing and promotional activities.

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

WHEREAS Alaska seafood products face ever-increasing domestic competition from imported seafood products, with more than 80 percent of the total fish and seafood consumed annually in the United States currently originating in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS effective domestic marketing of Alaska seafood in the face of aggressive competition from foreign products requires innovative, forceful, and consistent promotion; and

WHEREAS the Alaska seafood industry self-assesses a fee on fisheries production to finance domestic and international marketing of Alaska seafood; and

WHEREAS the state makes substantial financial contributions to the promotion and marketing of Alaska seafood; and

WHEREAS annual funding for the domestic promotion of Alaska seafood is not sufficient to effectively develop the thriving markets that sustainable Alaska seafood products merit, especially when confronted with nationally supported promotional programs aimed at

United States consumers by key rival producer countries; and

WHEREAS duties and tariffs on imported seafood products generate approximately \$280,000,000 annually for the United States Treasury; and

WHEREAS revenue from anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imported fish and fish products collected by the United States government total hundreds of millions of dollars annually; and

WHEREAS federal revenue derived from the importation of competing seafood products is not presently made available for the marketing of seafood harvested and produced domestically; and

WHEREAS using a portion of the revenue collected on the importation of foreign seafood products to promote American seafood to domestic consumers will secure American fisheries and seafood processing jobs, create robust and enduring domestic markets, and greatly enhance the nutritional value of American diets;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the allocation of money generated from federal marine and fishery product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of Alaska seafood; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to pass legislation dedicating a significant portion of marine and fishery product import tariffs to a national seafood marketing fund to promote domestic seafood products that face competition from foreign imports; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Alaska delegation in Congress to work with representatives of other seafood and fish-producing states to secure adequate funding for effective and sustained domestic marketing of American seafood.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, United States Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,

members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.