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REPRESENTATIVE Paul Seaton

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Sponsor Statement HJR 27 *"Bring the Fleet Home"*

Coastal Villages Region Fund is one of six Community Development Quota (CDQ) groups created under re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide economic development in villages located in Western Alaska from the fisheries resources of the Bearing Sea. There are 65 communities within a fifty-mile radius of the Bering Sea coastline who participate in the program.

Coastal Villages has grown from a small start up company to one of the largest Alaska based and Alaska owned seafood companies. They have a fleet of 18 ships that fish the pollock, cod, ground fish and crab fisheries in addition to providing bulk transportation and tender services. Coastal Villages is projected to bring in \$75 million in sales in 2011.

With a company this large there are millions spent in support services where the fleet home ports such as training programs, fuel, processing, office/warehouse space, and maintenance. This is currently spent in Seattle, however it has been a long standing wish of Coastal Villages and Alaskan leaders to bring the CDQ groups back to Alaska. Coastal Villages has identified Seward as a port that meets their needs for a home port: ice free year- round; road, rail and air access; land and harbor development space; dry dock services for maintenance; and maritime licensing and training.

HJR 27 expresses the support of the Alaska State Legislature for re-locating Coastal Villages Region Fund to Seward, Alaska.