



## TRIDENT SEAFOODS CORPORATION

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MAR 26 2009

March 25, 2009

Honorable Senators Lyman Hoffman  
and Bert Stedman  
Co-Chairmen  
Senate Finance Committee  
State Capital, Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senators Hoffman and Stedman:

I am writing on behalf of Trident Seafoods Corporation to provide the Finance Committee with information on how an increase in the minimum wage will impact the seafood processing industry in Alaska. Trident appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed increase.

As background, Trident is a seafood harvesting, marketing and processing company with operations throughout Alaska. Trident employs about 4,000 hourly workers at its processing facilities. Trident recruits at job fairs in Alaska and hires local residents in communities such as Kodiak, Ketchikan and Cordova. Local labor is not always available in the numbers necessary to conduct our operations, however, and some of our plants are located in remote locations, such as Akutan, where there is no resident workforce. As a consequence, many of our processing workers are hired from outside of Alaska.

Below is a list of Trident's processing facilities that operate in Alaska as well as the number of hourly Trident employees at each operation during peak production periods:

### Alaska



### Washington

Akutan • Anchorage • Chignik • Clarks Point • Cordova • Dillingham • Dutch Harbor  
Ketchikan • Kodiak • Naknek • Petersburg • Sand Point • South Naknek • St. Paul

Newport, OR • Ucluelet, B.C.



Anacortes • Bellingham • Everett  
Fife • Tacoma • Seattle

<b>Shoreplants</b>	<b>Hourly Employees</b>
Akutan	900
St. Paul	210
Sand Point	305
Kodiak	389
Ketchikan	386
Naknek	521
Cordova	430
Chignik	185
Petersburg	153
<b>Floating Processors</b>	
Alaska Packer	136
Aleutian Falcon	98
Arctic 5	9
Billikin	5
Bountiful	29
Independence	224
Pribilof	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,067</b>

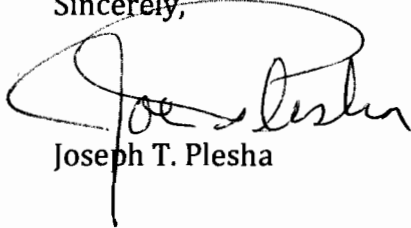
Many of Trident's hourly employees are paid more than the statutory minimum wage. When an employee is first hired he or she starts at the minimum wage. After six months the employee's hourly rate is increased by \$0.15, increased \$0.15 again after another six months, and increased an additional \$0.20 after another six months; thus employees who have worked at Trident for a year and a half receive \$0.50 above the minimum wage. The Federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 this summer and so Trident will increase the hourly wage earned by starting employees to that level, and continue to increase wages for experienced employees as in the past. There are also often significant overtime opportunities and Trident, of course, provides housing, meals and transportation costs.

Trident would like members of the Committee to be aware that a \$0.50 increase in the minimum wage rate will increase the company's costs by over \$4,000,000. A \$1.00 increase in the minimum wage rate would increase costs by \$8,000,000. This increase is for Trident alone. Other seafood processing companies would be similarly impacted.

Alaska's seafood processing industry provides an important economic base for many coastal communities throughout the State. An increase in the statutory minimum wage rate will likely affect seafood processors more than any other sector of the State's economy. A large increase in costs will make it more difficult for the industry to reinvest in its operations as well as impact the price it is able to pay for

the fish delivered to its plants. We are grateful to the Committee for taking these issues into consideration as it moves forward with consideration of legislation to increase the State's minimum wage rate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Plesha", written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph T. Plesha