

February 16, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Chair House Special Committee on Fisheries State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182 THE TENTH FLOOR 2200 SIXTH AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98121-1820 206.728.6000 OPERATION FAX 206.441.9090 SALES FAX 206.728.1855

Dear Representative Edgmon and Members of the House Fisheries Committee:

It is my pleasure to introduce Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc. We were incorporated in 1950 as the successor to P.E. Harris Co., which began canning salmon in Alaska in 1912. Peter Pan Seafoods processes and sells various types of Alaskan seafood products. All of our raw seafood is purchased from independent fishermen participating in fisheries throughout Alaska. Our production facilities include: King Cove, Port Moller, Dillingham, and Valdez. Salmon products account for the largest portion of our sales; other major product lines include crab, halibut, cod, Pollock and black cod. Our products are sold primarily to wholesalers and distributors throughout the world.

Peter Pan Seafoods is writing to express strong support for <u>Bill HB344</u>, <u>Extension of the Salmon Product Development Tax Credit</u> and to request that this important legislation be moved from the House Fisheries Committee as soon as possible. This bill simply extends for 3 more years an existing program that is proving very successful for the Alaskan salmon industry. We hope to continue the momentum and progress this program has afforded us in keeping our Alaskan salmon products competitive in the domestic and world markets.

We have been able to utilize the salmon tax credit at each of our Alaska production facilities. Both King Cove and Dillingham have added value added salmon fillet and ikura roe lines. In Port Moller, we expanded our value added salmon fillet operation; and in Valdez we added value added salmon fillet production, skinless boneless canned salmon and ikura roe. The progress we have achieved by adding and developing the value added salmon products in such a relatively short time is due to the Salmon Tax Credit.

The ever increasing costs of energy, labor, packaging and insurance are diverting the funds that could otherwise be invested into these sorts of improvements. It is imperative to our industry and Peter Pan Seafoods in particular that the salmon tax credit continue for another 3 years. There is more to be achieved in the development of the salmon value added program to ensure Alaska salmon products keep pace with evolving world markets. We urge the committee to take quick action in support of <u>HB344</u>, <u>Extension of the Salmon Product Development Tax Credit</u>.

Thank you and the Committee for your timely consideration of this issue.

Respectfully,

Barry D. Collier President and CEO Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.