

# UNALASKA/DUTCH HARBOR FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 162 UNALASKA, AK 99685

March 26, 2015

Honorable Pete Kelly, Co-Chair Senate Finance  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capital RM516.  
Juneau, Alaska 999801

Dear Chairman Kelly:

I'm writing to you today as Chairman of the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Fish Game Advisory Committee in support of keeping the State of Alaska PV Stimson home- ported in Unalaska, Alaska. The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC has many small boat commercial, personal use harvesters, processors and subsistence harvesters serving on the committee. This is the third time we have had to weigh in on the proposed relocation of the PV Stimson to Kodiak. This issue of the utmost importance to our community and to all of the 300 plus harvesting and processing vessels that fish in the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands (BSAI) area. We have a major concern on why the Department of Public Safety wants to have all of its large ocean going enforcement vessels all docked in Kodiak a two to three day run from where the state's and nation's largest and most valuable fisheries take place. We would only have an enforcement vessel in the BSAI, when the department does sporadic patrols into the area. That doesn't seem to be an appropriate way to do business and could put lives at risk.

The relocation of the PV Stimson will have serious detrimental impacts on Bering Sea/Aleutian Island (BSAI) in the areas of resource protection, enforcement and safety. The amount of United States Coast Guard Cutter assets in the BSAI has been declining the past few years with the phasing out of their older 378' class cutters. This increases the importance of PV Stimson being homeported in Unalaska as an important asset for a very large area which stretches over a 1,000 miles from Bristol Bay out the Aleutian chain and as far north to Norton Sound to Aleutian Islands. We believed within the next few years we will be seeing increased vessel traffic into the Arctic, either for oil exploration or shipping through the Northern Sea Route having a large ocean going asset such as the PV Stimson home-ported in Unalaska/ Dutch Harbor makes sense, because it allows for the her availability to respond and be on scene in a timely fashion to an emergency event. If the PV Stimson is home-ported in Kodiak it is 2-3 day run to the Bering Sea to respond to an emergency.

It also concerns many of our local residents on the impact this move would have on are local school population with six families possibly leaving the community; it will have major impact on the Unalaska school population. We must remember that the 156' PV Stimson which was purchased by the state with its stated mission the enforcement of commercial fisheries in the Bering Sea and Bristol Bay it will be difficult for that mission to be carried out, if the vessel is home-ported in Kodiak. Its size and stability allow it to respond year round to Search and Rescue

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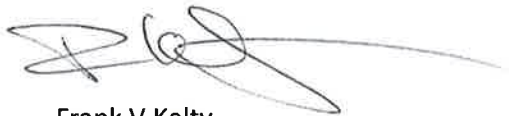
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missions in the BSAI; it is equipped for firefighting and can provide a platform for environmental pollution responses. The vessel can also provide emergency generation and communications in remote locations for resource protection, enforcement and safety issues in the BSAI area. The Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC is also very concerned that the relocation is being proposed just when we have new major state water Pacific Cod fisheries beginning, they include the new state-water Bering Sea state water Pacific cod fishery which opened on February 11, 2015 for 18 million pounds northeast of Unalaska this is a small boat fishery for 58' < under pot boats that will be fishing in harsh winter conditions. We also have another major state water fishery for another 18 million pounds in Adak area which also opened in February.

We expect these state water fisheries to continue to expand both in the Bering Sea, Aleutians Islands and in the Alaska Peninsula /Western Gulf of Alaska area. Both of these small boat fixed gear fisheries will attract many more vessels and really points out the need to have the PV Stimson homeported in this area to respond for enforcement, search and rescue needs in state waters. We understand that this relocation is being proposed as a cost saving measure but we have a hard time understanding how that will happen, with increased fuel costs for the 3 day or longer travel time between Kodiak, and areas in the BSAI. Wouldn't labor costs also increase for the PV Stimson with sea time premium wage rates for the increased crew sea time from having to run back to Kodiak to dock.

In closing, the nation's largest and most valuable fisheries take place in the BSAI these fisheries generate millions of dollars in fisheries taxes and marine fuel taxes for fishery dependent communities and the State of Alaska we would think that these revenues would offset any the additional costs of continuing homeporting the PV Stimson in Unalaska this nation's number 1 commercial fishing port.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank V. Kelty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank V Kelty

Unalaska/Dutch Harbor AC

Attachment: City of Unalaska Resolution 2015-20 in support of keeping the PV Stimson home-ported in Unalaska.

CITY OF UNALASKA  
UNALASKA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 2015-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY CONTINUING TO HOME-PORT THE ENFORCEMENT PATROL VESSEL *STIMSON* IN THE CITY OF UNALASKA, PORT OF DUTCH HARBOR.**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety expressed the need for a vessel of the size and stability of the PV *Stimson* for the enforcement of the State of Alaska commercial fisheries, and to perform year-round search and rescue missions in the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Bristol Bay areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska worked in concert with the Department of Public Safety to ensure funding was obtained to purchase and retrofit the PV *Stimson*, which was completed in 1999 and has been home-ported in the City of Unalaska, Port of Dutch Harbor since its completion; and

WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska has built mooring facilities at its Unalaska Marine Center dock, which were designed and constructed to accommodate the specific needs of the PV *Stimson*; and

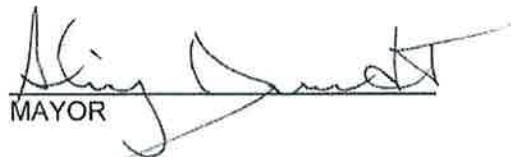
WHEREAS, the City of Unalaska, Port of Dutch Harbor supports fishing and processing operations that provide markets and support services for hundreds of vessels that participate in the Bering Sea fisheries, which provide millions of dollars to the State of Alaska from fisheries and marine fuel taxes; and

WHEREAS, it is logical to home-port the PV *Stimson* in the City of Unalaska, Port of Dutch Harbor, the nation's number one commercial fishing port, due to its central location near the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands fishing grounds; and

WHEREAS, relocating the PV *Stimson* to another port in the Gulf of Alaska would negatively impact the vessel's ability to perform its stated mission, potentially increasing the response time to an emergency call or rescue mission in the Bering Sea area by forty-eight hours or more;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL formally opposes any relocation of the PV *Stimson* to another homeport in the Gulf of Alaska.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2015.

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

