



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development**

Office of the Commissioner

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April 6, 2015

The Honorable Louise Stutes  
Fisheries Chairman  
State Capitol, Rm 416

Dear Representative Stutes,

I am writing in support of HCR 10.

I applaud your introduction of HCR 10 as an opportunity to bring public awareness to the growing maritime industry in Alaska. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is committed to improving training and employment opportunities for all Alaskans. HCR 10 highlights the significant economic benefits resulting from activity in the maritime industry.

Thank you for taking time to meet with my staff, and for considering the Department's recommendations for HCR 10. As discussed, the Department seeks to add language increasing the number of Alaska residents working in the maritime industry, referencing the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), and the Maritime Training Center within the Alaska Vocational and Technical Education Center (AVTEC).

The AWIB is the Governor's policy board, by statute, for all federal and state funded education and employment training programs in Alaska. The AWIB consists of representatives from private sector employers, education, and government who work together to facilitate the development of statewide policy for a coordinated and effective employment training and education system in Alaska. The AWIB also works to ensure the state's plan for workforce development by addressing the promotion of Alaska resident hire in jobs that have been traditionally filled by out-of-state workers.

The Alaska Maritime Training Center, a United States Coast Guard approved AVTEC training facility located in Seward, Alaska, offers USCG/STCW compliant maritime training. In addition to the standard courses offered, customized training is available to meet the specific needs of the maritime industry. Courses are delivered through the use of our world class ship simulator, state-of-the-art computer based navigational laboratory, and modern classrooms equipped with the latest instructional delivery technologies.

Re: Support of HCR 10  
April 6, 2015

The Department is encouraging all stakeholders and state agencies identified in the resolution to attend the next AWIB meeting scheduled for May 6th and 7th at AVTEC in Seward to bring forward their resources to address the workforce development needs of the Alaska Maritime industry, including support of Alaska hire for occupations related to this industry.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Drygas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Heidi Drygas