



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

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Dec. 10, 2015

President James R. Johnsen
University of Alaska
Office of the President
P.O. Box 755000
Fairbanks, AK 99775-5000

Dear President Johnsen:

Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is very concerned that the University of Alaska (UA) is considering closing and transferring ownership of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC) to University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) from the University of Fairbanks (UAF).

We can understand the need to make difficult budgetary decisions and are very familiar with the state's current fiscal situation. However, transferring ownership from UAF to UAA doesn't appear to provide any fiscal savings, it simply transfers the costs within the same university system. Furthermore, UAF's offer to transfer ownership of the building didn't include a requirement that the statutory mandate (AS. 52.020) for the purpose of the building be upheld, and the intent of KSMSC be carried out. Keeping KSMSC open and at UAF would be a strong statement of your steadfast commitment to applied fisheries research and support of the largest private sector employer in the state – the fishing and seafood industry in Alaska.

KSMSC's curriculum has filled an educational gap in the industry; APICDA and our member communities have benefited greatly from having access to their relevant and critically needed training. KSMSC has played an important role in helping APICDA fulfill its purpose to develop stable local economies based upon the fishing industry in our member communities of Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski and St. George. As you are well aware, stable economies and healthy communities provide employment opportunities for local residents, tax revenue for local governments, economic growth in the community and region, a higher standard of living and a reduction in social problems.

With the current economic climate in Alaska and the need to diversify the state's economy, now more than ever there should be continued financial support and commitment for Alaska's largest private sector employer. Given the importance and value of the fishing and seafood processing industry to Alaska, KSMSC should not be closed or transferred, nor its purpose ignored.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Larry Cotter, CEO