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March 24, 2017

Representative Dan Ortiz
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 128 – Shellfish Enhancement

Dear Representative Ortiz:

The Juneau Economic Development Council fosters a healthy and sustainable economic climate in Juneau and throughout Southeast Alaska. In collaboration with other organizations, the council implements initiatives to maintain, expand, and create economic opportunities.

On behalf of the Juneau Economic Development Council, I would like to express support for HB 128 which allows qualified non-profits to pursue enhancement and/or restoration projects involving shellfish species. HB 128 is part of a larger effort to develop mariculture in Alaska by creating a regulatory framework with which ADF&G can allow for and manage shellfish fishery enhancement, restoration and hatcheries. It will bring mariculture one step closer to its potential to become an economic engine for Southeast Alaska.

Thank you for your efforts to support mariculture development in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Holst", enclosed within a simple circular scribble.

Brian Holst
Executive Director
Juneau Economic Development Council