



CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL
INCORPORATED MAY 30, 2008

Office of the Borough Mayor

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March 30, 2017

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov

Re: Support for SB 95 – Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Senator Stevens:

On behalf of the City and Borough of Wrangell, I would like to express support for **SB 95** which alters the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund (Fund) to allow for shellfish and seaweed hatcheries to apply for loan funds from the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund. This will provide an important source of support for these new hatcheries.

In 2015, the Wrangell Assembly adopted Resolution No. 10-15-1333. With that Resolution, the assembly urged the State of Alaska to amend the statutory requirements for the mariculture revolving loan fund. I have attached that Resolution to this letter for you.


Shellfish and seaweed hatcheries are critical pieces of infrastructure necessary for the development of mariculture in Alaska. However, the financial support of these operations is difficult during the developmental stage when the industry is too small to financially support these operations entirely through seed sales. Providing access to the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund will help to break the chicken-or-egg stage of the industry and provide the support necessary to help the industry grow past this stage.

Seed security has been identified as a top priority by aquatic farmers in Alaska for over 10 years. Altering the fund to provide hatcheries access to funds could provide more consistent seed security for farmers.

Another benefit of developing mariculture in Alaska is the important role that shellfish and seaweed hatcheries can play in adapting to ocean changes and acidification, and the ecoservices that shellfish and seaweed provide to our marine environments, as well as the economic development opportunities for Alaska residents and communities.

Thank you for sponsoring this important legislation. The City and Borough of Wrangell Assembly supports SB 96 and appreciates your work to bring economic opportunities to Alaska.

Sincerely,



Dave Jack
Mayor

Attachments: Resolution No. 10-15-1333

cc: Governor Bill Walker
Senator Mia Costello, Chair, Senate Labor and Committee: Senator.Mia.Costello@akleg.gov
Tim Lamkin, Staff, Senator Gary Stevens: Tim.Lamkin@akleg.gov
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. (AFDF)
Alaska Maritime Task Force (AMTF)