



Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery
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Representative Dan Ortiz

State Capitol Room 513
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Representative.Dan.Ortiz@akleg.gov

Re: HB 128-Shellfish Enhancement
HB 76- Revolving Loan Fund

March 28, 2017

Dear Representative Ortiz,

Thank you for sponsoring the two shellfish bills to the 30th Alaska State Legislature. As Director of the Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery I would like to express the importance of these two bills.

HB89 would allow us to expand on the work we have been doing on many of the shellfish stocks in Alaska. We have developed hatchery techniques for red and blue king crab, little neck and butter clams, cockles and most recently abalone. We have done experimental out stocking experiments with some of these species but need the legal mechanism to do large scale projects that could make a difference.

HB 128 supports the industry from a different angle. In my opinion, the relatively slow growth of the mariculture industry in Alaska is because of under capitalization. This loan program is specifically designed to take into account the delayed return on investment for growers and operators and should help spur the expansion of our industry. As the operator of the shellfish hatchery this is extremely important since I need more customers to keep our operation financially solvent.

I understand the turmoil in Juneau with the fiscal situation and other priorities but would hope you could convince your colleagues to give these bills fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick
Director