

ALASKA RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

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Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Louise Stutes
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

The Alaska Research Consortium (ARC) is writing in support of HCR 2 and the continued work of the Alaska Ocean Cluster on behalf of Alaska's blue economy. We understand and support the concept of the Alaska Ocean Cluster for our state and we are in discussions with the group about potential partnerships. The Alaska Ocean Cluster has a broad vision for the blue economies of Alaska.

The Alaska Research Consortium was formed in 2016 at a time when the University of Alaska was considering closing or repurposing the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC). KSMSC is a perfect example of an "ocean cluster hub" for Alaska with its seafood processing pilot plant and a long history of seafood product development, including some of the best work in the country on fish and shellfish byproducts that are often discarded. ARC recently completed a project titled, "Alaska's Seafood Future" looking at the need for continued applied seafood research in our state, currently non-existent, due to lack of capacity funding. Partnering with the Alaska Ocean Cluster can lead to new, creative opportunities and collaborations to continue this important work.

As outlined in the Resolution, the Alaska Ocean Cluster has been working to advance Alaska's ocean economy since 2017, by partnering with other ocean industry growth initiatives and private companies around the state, country, and world. It has already leveraged federal funding from the Economic Development Administration to develop programs that are currently benefitting communities around the State. In order to expand its work, the support of the Legislature would be valuable, signifying buy-in from the State of Alaska.

We urge swift passage of HCR 2.

Thank you,



Jay Stinson, President
Alaska Research Consortium

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