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January 31, 2025

Senator Jesse Kiehl
Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 105
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB77 – PERM FUND; EMPLOYMENT; ELIGIBILITY

Dear Chair Kiehl and committee members,

Matson is in support of SB77, which would resolve the issue concerning the loss of the permanent fund dividend for Alaskans seeking training outside of the state to pursue a maritime career.

SB77 helps promote local hire of Alaskans in an industry where family wages are the norm. Historically, Alaskans are among the best candidates we have found for these career ladder positions as demonstrated by the maritime industry's 25-year initiative to work with the State of Alaska to recruit, train (at no cost to the individual or state), and guarantee employment for all graduates.

Matson joins a large coalition of maritime companies who are all addressing the shortage of commercial mariners across the United States and appreciates your support of SB77.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vic Angoco', is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Vic Angoco
Senior Vice President, Alaska
Matson