

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS AUSTERMAN, Lincoln, Leman, Taylor, Elton, Cowdery

Introduced: 2/22/01

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to imports of salmon from Chile.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** salmon farms produced almost 1,800,000,000 pounds of product
4 worldwide in 1999; and

5 **WHEREAS** Chile is the growing giant of the farmed salmon industry; and

6 **WHEREAS** imports of farmed salmon from Chile have grown by 120 percent in the
7 last five years, and Chile is now the world leader in the farmed salmon industry, with
8 production expected to grow significantly each year; and

9 **WHEREAS** the total 1999 Alaska salmon harvest was only 898,600,000 pounds; and

10 **WHEREAS** the harvest of salmon in Alaska can increase only fractionally due to
11 natural factors and the inherent conditions associated with the harvest of wild salmon; and

12 **WHEREAS** salmon farms in Chile operate in a low-cost labor environment with
13 heavy government subsidization and without the regulatory constraints that govern the Alaska
14 fishing industry, giving Chile a major advantage in the costs of production; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaska salmon is harvested by independent fishermen and is processed in
16 plants that bring critical economic benefits to many remote Alaska communities; and

1 **WHEREAS** the commercial fishing industry in Alaska is the largest private sector
2 employer in Alaska, and wild salmon is the primary product for most coastal fishing ports in
3 Alaska; and

4 **WHEREAS** the commercial fishing industry in Alaska can only provide the quality,
5 fresh product that American consumers are accustomed to from May through October and
6 Chile can supply fresh farmed salmon throughout the year; and

7 **WHEREAS** imports of frozen fish from Chile during the remainder of the year are
8 increasing dramatically and are more competitive than fresh-frozen salmon from Alaska;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United
10 States Department of State, while negotiating trade agreements with Chile, to consider the
11 numerous negative effects that farmed salmon from Chile has on the economy of Alaska; and
12 be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
14 imposition of import restrictions on salmon products from Chile during the months from May
15 through October and increased import tariffs on salmon products from Chile during the
16 remainder of the year.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Colin Powell, United States
18 Secretary of State; the Honorable Don Evans, United States Secretary of Commerce; and to
19 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
20 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.