

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE OGG BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE SALMON INDUSTRY TASK FORCE, Wilson**

**Introduced: 1/28/04**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Labor and Commerce**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Requesting the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States**  
2 **Department of Labor to extend Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits to Alaska**  
3 **fishermen; requesting the United States Congress and the United States Department of**  
4 **Agriculture to extend additional disaster and price support benefits to Alaska salmon**  
5 **fishermen; and requesting the United States Department of Agriculture to establish**  
6 **terminal markets in Alaska for all covered commodities including salmon.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance  
9 program provides job search, relocation assistance, and retraining benefits for qualified  
10 worker groups; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture Trade Adjustment  
12 Assistance program provides eligibility for qualified persons to receive retraining benefits  
13 through the United States Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance program; and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaska fishermen are currently required to show a net decline in fishing

1 earnings from 2001 to 2002 in order to be eligible for the United States Department of  
2 Agriculture Trade Adjustment Assistance program; and

3 **WHEREAS** many Alaska fishermen experienced reduced fishing earnings in 2001  
4 due to the decline in the price of all five Alaska salmon species as the result of increased  
5 imports of foreign salmon, price-related work stoppages, and closures of processor markets  
6 and thus were not able to participate in the United States Department of Agriculture Trade  
7 Adjustment Assistance program because they could not demonstrate a net decline in fishing  
8 earnings from 2001 to 2002; and

9 **WHEREAS** many Alaska fishermen did not fish at all in 2002 because they had been  
10 informed by fish processors and buyers to whom they had traditionally sold their catch that  
11 the fish processors and buyers would not purchase salmon during 2002 and thus these  
12 fishermen were not eligible for commodity-based United States Department of Agriculture  
13 Trade Adjustment Assistance price adjustment payments or for United States Department of  
14 Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance program retraining benefits; and

15 **WHEREAS** alternative job opportunities are uncommon in many of the rural areas  
16 where Alaska fishermen live; and

17 **WHEREAS** the costs of relocation are generally much higher for Alaska fishermen  
18 than for persons living in other states due to the expense of travel both within the state and to  
19 other states;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United  
21 States Department of Agriculture to extend cash benefits under the Trade Adjustment  
22 Assistance program to Alaska fishermen who fished in five of the six years from 1997 to  
23 2002, inclusive, if the fishermen can certify a loss in income from salmon fishing in any of  
24 those years or were prevented from fishing for salmon in any of those years; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the  
26 United States Department of Labor to extend retraining benefits under the Trade Adjustment  
27 Assistance program to Alaska fishermen who fished in five of the six years from 1997 to  
28 2002, inclusive, even if the fishermen either had reduced fishing earnings in 2001 or did not  
29 fish in 2002; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that  
31 the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture extend additional

1 disaster and price support benefits to Alaska salmon fishermen who fished in five of the six  
2 years from 1997 to 2002, inclusive, and continued fishing during periods of disaster or market  
3 declines by taking the necessary legislative and administrative action to include all species of  
4 Alaska salmon as "covered/eligible" commodities for purposes of the Noninsured Crop  
5 Disaster Assistance program, Livestock Compensation program, and Loan Deficiency  
6 Payment program; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that  
8 the United States Department of Agriculture establish terminal markets in Alaska for all  
9 covered commodities, including each species of salmon.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ann Veneman, United  
11 States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Elaine Chao, United States Secretary of Labor;  
12 the Honorable Ted Stevens, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and member of the  
13 Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of  
14 Representatives; and to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senator, and the Honorable Don  
15 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.