

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, Herron, Chenault, Johnson, Gardner, Thompson, Foster, Austerman, Peggy Wilson, Costello, Tuck, Olson, Dick, Saddler, Kerttula, Feige**SENATORS Hoffman, Ellis, McGuire, Stedman, Davis, Thomas, Egan, Paskvan, Menard, Meyer, Olson, Kookesh, French, Wielechowski, Wagoner, Dyson, Giessel, Stevens****Introduced: 4/4/11****Referred: House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism****A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the relocation of the home port of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing**
 2 **fleet from Seattle to Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska worked tirelessly within the framework of the
 5 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to transition from a federal
 6 fishery dominated by foreign fishing vessels to a fishery fully utilized by Americans; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in the 1990s, the state worked in partnership with the state's
 8 Congressional delegation to promote the community development quota (CDQ) initiative in
 9 the Bering Sea, which provided residents of the villages located on and around the Bering Sea
 10 fisheries a stake in the fishing industry; and

11 **WHEREAS** many past leaders of the state have shared a longstanding goal of
 12 Alaskanizing ownership of the fishing fleets serving the CDQ groups and home-porting those
 13 fleets in the state; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Coastal Villages Region Fund, one of six CDQ groups and the largest
 15 Alaskan-owned and Alaska-based seafood company in the state's 100-year history of
 16 commercial fisheries, holds either 100 percent sole ownership of its fishing fleet or ownership

1 in partnership with another CDQ group; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Coastal Villages Region Fund is projected to make \$75,000,000 in
3 seafood sales in 2011; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Coastal Villages Region Fund has become so big and successful that
5 it costs \$2,000,000 to fill up the fuel tanks of its fishing fleet just one time, spends
6 approximately \$20,000,000 annually in Seattle for moorage, vendor support, and
7 maintenance, and spends approximately \$2,000,000 each year to fly crews between Alaska
8 and Seattle; and

9 **WHEREAS** the money spent by the Coastal Villages Region Fund in Seattle is
10 money that could be spent in the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the legislation establishing the CDQ groups requires that the earnings of
12 those groups be reinvested in the Bering Sea area; and

13 **WHEREAS** no locations within the Bering Sea area meet the home-porting
14 requirements of the large fishing and processing vessels owned by the Coastal Villages
15 Region Fund; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Coastal Villages Region Fund desires to relocate its home port from
17 Seattle to a port in Alaska that has the following characteristics: (1) a year-round ice-free deep
18 water port; (2) road, rail, and air access; (3) available space on the water and upland for
19 development; (4) major ship repair capabilities; and (5) maritime training and licensing; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after a statewide review, the Coastal Villages Region Fund has
21 determined that the City of Seward is the only community in the state that meets all of its
22 requirements; and

23 **WHEREAS** the president and board of directors of the Coastal Villages Region Fund
24 have proposed that Seward become the home port for its growing fishing and processing fleet;
25 and

26 **WHEREAS** the Coastal Villages Region Fund requires a half-mile of dock space to
27 dock its fishing vessels, 20,000 square feet of warehouse space, 5,000 square feet of office
28 space, and five to 10 acres of fenced yard for equipment and staging; and

29 **WHEREAS** the relocation of the Coastal Villages Region Fund to Seward will
30 encourage and facilitate the relocation of the remaining five CDQ groups to the state; and

31 **WHEREAS** the home-porting of the largest CDQ group in Seward will begin the

1 transition of hiring vendors from inside the state to repair propellers and vessels, weld and
2 paint, service electronics, mend fishing gear, repair diesel engines, supply packaging, provide
3 fuel and groceries, and provide marine safety training; and

4 **WHEREAS**, with the relocation of the home port to Seward, the money earned by the
5 Coastal Villages Region Fund in the Bering Sea fisheries will ripple through the state's
6 economy; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers has
8 made a preliminary finding that the relocation of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing
9 fleet to Seward is economically feasible; and

10 **WHEREAS** the infrastructure for home-porting the Coastal Villages Region Fund
11 fishing fleet in Seward will build on the \$70,000,000 in existing infrastructure at the Seward
12 Marine Industrial Center that was constructed in the 1980s; and

13 **WHEREAS** the City of Seward has paid for the initial engineering analysis to home-
14 port the Coastal Villages Region Fund in Seward; and

15 **WHEREAS** construction of the infrastructure to support home-porting the Coastal
16 Villages Region Fund in Seward may be completed by December 15, 2014;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the relocation of
18 the home port of the Coastal Villages Region Fund fishing fleet from Seattle to Alaska.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
20 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
21 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.