

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION

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SENATOR BERT K. STEDMAN

Shawn Carey, Grants Program Officer
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Alaska Region
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September 26, 2013

RE: Letter of Support for S-K Grant titled, *Alaska Mariculture Initiative*

Dear Mr. Carey,

I am writing to express my support for the Saltonstall Kennedy grant proposal from the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) titled, ***Alaska Mariculture***. The Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) is spearheading the ***Alaska Mariculture Initiative*** which will complete the following objectives: broaden the vision and constituency of the mariculture industry from shellfish farming to also include restoration and wild fishery enhancement, coordinate efforts to develop the mariculture industry, convene a strategic planning conference in Alaska, develop a strategic plan, and gain a commitment by all participating agencies and stakeholders regarding implementation of the plan.

The mariculture industry has tremendous potential to provide new jobs in Alaska's coastal communities for farmers, fishermen, and those supporting the industry with research, seed supply, and infrastructure. Increased mariculture production is not only economically beneficial to these communities, but also ecologically beneficial to the marine habitat.

I support the ***Alaska Mariculture Initiative*** as a coordinated strategic planning effort with a sound methodology, clear objectives and a reasonable expectation that it will facilitate expansion of the mariculture industry, providing much needed jobs, increased seafood sales, economic growth, and a resilient industry.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bert Stedman".

Senator Bert Stedman

District Q

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