



MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY17-04

A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE (SWAMC) MEMBERSHIP GIVING STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE KODIAK SEAFOOD AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER AND URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA TO MAINTAIN THE CENTER AS AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR THE STATE

WHEREAS, the Alaska seafood industry employs more workers than any other private sector industry in the state, employing 60,000 workers and providing those workers with \$1.6 billion annual earnings; and

WHEREAS, significant economic benefits accrue to Alaskans from activities of the state's seafood industry; in 2014, seafood had a harvest value of \$1.9 billion and a first wholesale value of \$4.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, the number of seafood industry jobs in the state that require technical and professional skill is increasing and the state is at a crossroads in its need to diversify and expand its economy; and

WHEREAS, the statutory duties of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center (KSMSC) include creating employment opportunities in the state's fishing industry, providing training to citizens of the state in the harvesting, processing, and conservation of the state's fishery resources, providing research and development activities to enhance the effectiveness and economic viability of the state's fishing industry, and encouraging joint projects between industry and government to use industrial experience and government programs to enhance the productivity of the industry; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Sea Grant services focusing on teaching, training, research, and technical assistance carried out at KSMSC serves all Alaskans, and in fiscal year 2016 provided workforce training to 265 industry members, educational opportunities to 25 graduate and undergraduate students, and technical assistance to over 70 seafood businesses, tribes, and communities; and

WHEREAS the Department of Environmental Conservation has designated the center and its faculty as "process authorities" for the purposes of certifying the safety of the state's seafood; and

WHEREAS, the center is a unique and well-positioned hub of knowledge, inquiry, research, and work, serving industry partners, state and federal agencies and commissions, and the Kodiak community; and

WHEREAS, Sea Grant is a key SWAMC Partner to the federally designated National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Program (NIST MEP), distributing up to \$500,000 of funding annually and could compromise Alaska's effective management of the NIST MEP program without the services provided by Sea Grant at the KSMSC; and

WHEREAS, KSMSC is a community asset, statutorily directed to provide support and opportunity.

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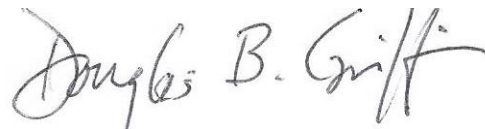
NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership strongly supports the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center as a statewide hub for research, training, and technical assistance efforts to support fisheries across the entire state and urges the State of Alaska and University of Alaska to adequately fund this vital center and find a solution that keeps the center operating and stable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 3rd day of March, 2017.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



Rebecca Skinner, SWAMC President



Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director