



Membership Resolution FY16-02

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA BOARD OF REGENTS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS KODIAK SEAFOOD AND MARINE SCIENCE CENTER (KSMSC), FORMERLY, AND IN ALASKA STATUTE (TITLE 16 CHAPTER 52), REFERRED TO AS THE FISHERY INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER (FITC) AND CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THIS CLOSURE

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is currently facing fiscal difficulties as a result of an overdependence on oil revenues; and

WHEREAS, The State of Alaska, Alaska students and Alaska businesses will benefit from State of Alaska and University of Alaska investments directed toward applied and academic research in seafood science, technology, and engineering that will serve to provide a firm foundation for a more diversified base of residency, employment, income and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has an abundance and large diversity of fisheries and seafood resources that support and drive Alaska’s largest economic employment sector; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that these rich and diverse seafood and fisheries resources are processed in product forms that meet the highest safety, efficiency and consumer preference standards so that they may be marketed, distributed and competitive in domestic and international markets, and provide the maximum value and economic, employment, social and cultural benefits to the State of Alaska, its communities and its people; and

WHEREAS, the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center, known in Alaska Statute as the Fisheries Industrial Technology Center (FITC) in Kodiak, was created by the University in response to a charge by the Alaska Legislature (Title 16, Chapter 52) to represent and provide scientific and economic opportunities for applied science partnerships between the University of Alaska and its subdivisions, other university and private research entities, Alaska seafood harvesting and processing sectors, coastal communities and others, where members of the Alaska Seafood Industry, Alaskan students and businesses, and national and international food producers and distributors may address ongoing and developing domestic and international challenges and developments in the fields of food safety, consumer preferences, and food science, technology and engineering; and

WHEREAS, academic and applied research represent a core mission of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and serves to support Alaskan students, employment, and industry and economic vitality of the communities that the University of Alaska is charged to serve; and

WHEREAS, Applied Seafood Research conducted by FITC scientists staff, students and visiting scientists has improved fishery processing technology, stock sustainability, seafood safety, processing efficiency, food preservation and increased catch utilization across the state; and

WHEREAS, the UAF has announced the closure of the Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center in Kodiak, the transfer of the Alfred Owen Building’s administrative home, the transfer of remaining faculty and the dismantling of the seafood processing Pilot Plant; and

WHEREAS, the decision to close the facility was conducted without consultation with FITC staff, fishing communities, industry or others dependent of the fishing industry; and

WHEREAS, the FITC facility and equipment are critical to achieving the mission; and

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska should not abandon both its commitment to applied fisheries research as well as the close community and industry partnerships that provide the foundation for a healthy University system; and

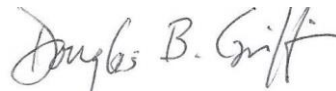
THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors and its Membership requests that the University of Alaska, The University of Alaska Board of Regents and the University of Alaska Fairbanks maintain KSMSC/FITC research, facilities, equipment and staff through fiscal year 2017 to allow sufficient time for the University and Alaska’s communities to discuss challenges and opportunities related to the mission, operation, and funding of the KSMSC/FITC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Board of Directors and its Membership requests that new university leaders in the offices of University of Alaska Statewide System President, UAF Chancellor, and UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences Dean engage in open dialogue with Alaska’s fishing communities relative to the preservation of the KSMSC/FITC as a focus of the commitment of the University of Alaska, the University of Alaska Board of Regents, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to the critical need for applied fisheries research.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference membership on the 4th day of March, 2016.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:



Layton Lockett, President

Doug Griffin, Executive Director

Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

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