

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 43

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES EDGMON, Austerman, Johansen, Harris, Seaton, Muñoz, Peggy Wilson, Thomas, Kerttula, Herron, Millett, Joule

Introduced: 2/10/10

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the federal government to provide funding for domestic seafood marketing and**
2 **promotional activities.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood products face ever-increasing domestic competition from
5 imported seafood products, with more than 50 percent of the total fish and seafood consumed
6 annually in the United States currently originating in foreign countries; and

7 **WHEREAS** effective domestic marketing of Alaska seafood in the face of aggressive
8 competition from foreign products requires innovative, forceful, and consistent promotion;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the Alaska seafood industry self-assesses a fee on fisheries production to
11 finance domestic and international marketing of Alaska seafood; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state makes substantial financial contributions to the promotion and
13 marketing of Alaska seafood; and

14 **WHEREAS** annual funding for the domestic promotion of Alaska seafood is not
15 sufficient to effectively develop the thriving markets that sustainable Alaska seafood products
16 merit, especially when confronted with nationally supported promotional programs aimed at

1 United States consumers by key rival producer countries; and

2 **WHEREAS** duties and tariffs on imported seafood products generate approximately
3 \$280,000,000 annually for the United States Treasury; and

4 **WHEREAS** revenue from anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imported fish
5 and fish products collected by the United States government total hundreds of millions of
6 dollars annually; and

7 **WHEREAS** federal revenue derived from the importation of competing seafood
8 products is not presently made available for the marketing of seafood harvested and produced
9 domestically; and

10 **WHEREAS** using a portion of the revenue collected on the importation of foreign
11 seafood products to promote American seafood to domestic consumers will secure American
12 fisheries and seafood processing jobs, create robust and enduring domestic markets, and
13 greatly enhance the nutritional value of American diets;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the allocation
15 of money generated from federal marine and fishery product import tariffs for the domestic
16 marketing of Alaska seafood; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
18 United States Congress to pass legislation dedicating a significant portion of marine and
19 fishery product import tariffs to a national seafood marketing fund to promote domestic
20 seafood products that face competition from foreign imports; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
22 Alaska Delegation in Congress to work with representatives of other seafood and fish-
23 producing states to secure adequate funding for effective and sustained domestic marketing of
24 American seafood.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
26 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
27 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the
28 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
29 Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, United States Secretary of the Treasury; the Honorable Tom
30 Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
31 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,

1 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.