

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS BISHOP, Bjorkman, Claman, Hoffman, Giessel, Stevens

Introduced: 2/15/24

Referred: Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Calling on the United States Congress and all federal agencies to adopt policies and**
2 **engage in certain efforts to improve the competitiveness and resiliency of the state's**
3 **seafood industry.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** efforts to improve global competitiveness of Alaska commercial seafood
6 have benefits to the entire seafood industry, including harvesters, processors, and support
7 businesses, as well as communities across the state and the state as a whole; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood makes up more than 60 percent of seafood harvested in
9 the United States and is a critical part of food production for the United States; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood is exported to about 100 countries around the globe; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood is subject to global market factors that directly affect its
12 value, whether sold in the United States or exported; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska seafood currently faces extraordinary national and global
14 challenges, including trade policies and nonreciprocal tariffs that favor other nations, large
15 existing inventories, high costs and inflation rates, reduced consumer demand, and global

1 competitors that have lower operating costs and are less regulated than domestic seafood
2 producers; and

3 **WHEREAS** challenges that affect the economic viability of fishers and seafood
4 processors also affect local economies and fish landing tax revenues in coastal communities
5 across Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS**, compared to other domestic sources of protein, seafood is not fully
7 integrated into federal policies and programs designed to ensure domestic food security,
8 supply chain integrity, and support for harvesting and processing businesses; and

9 **WHEREAS** the lack of recognition of domestic seafood in United States trade policy
10 objectives and priorities results in market conditions that reduce the value of Alaska seafood
11 and its accessibility to global markets, creating an unlevel playing field; and

12 **WHEREAS** the 2023 National Export Strategy issued by the federal Trade Promotion
13 Coordinating Committee includes a chapter on seafood industries that highlights the need to
14 improve interagency coordination and global market competitiveness for domestic seafood
15 producers;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports and encourages efforts
17 by the federal government to create an office of seafood policy and program integration
18 within the United States Department of Agriculture to help ensure that domestic food security
19 and supply chain integrity is fully integrated into the department's policy strategies for
20 domestic seafood; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
22 Department of Agriculture to treat seafood harvesting and processing businesses similarly to
23 the way producers of land-based sources of protein are treated; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all federal
25 agencies that affect the economic viability of the state's seafood industry to implement the
26 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Seafood Strategy and chapter 9
27 of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee's 2023 National Export Strategy; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests all federal
29 agencies and programs to increase purchases of Alaska seafood; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on all federal
31 agencies to help improve governmental programs applicable to the seafood industry for

1 recapitalization, vessel construction, tax structures, workforce accessibility, energy, and
2 infrastructure; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the United States
4 Congress to increase federal funding for new product development, testing, promotion, and
5 marketing of domestically produced seafood in a similar fashion as the National Oceanic and
6 Atmospheric Administration's Saltonstall-Kennedy Research and Development Program and
7 its associated grant competition; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States
9 Secretary of Commerce to include and improve seafood expertise and leadership in the Office
10 of the United States Trade Representative in order to better coordinate seafood trade
11 objectives among offices of the United States Trade Representative, to coordinate seafood
12 trade programs with seafood-related efforts of other federal agencies, and to provide a point of
13 entry for seafood producers to more effectively engage with the Office of the United States
14 Trade Representative; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the federal
16 government to improve United States trade policy through the Office of the United States
17 Trade Representative and other federal agencies to create a more reciprocal tariff structure for
18 seafood export and import and reduce the burden and risk associated with non-tariff barriers.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
20 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and
21 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of
22 Representatives; the Honorable Charles Schumer, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
23 Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Gina
24 Raimondo, United States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Katherine Tai, United States
25 Trade Representative; the Honorable Richard Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for
26 Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
27 Administrator, United States Department of Commerce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
28 and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S.
29 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.