

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES STUTES, Kreiss-Tomkins**

**Introduced: 2/18/21**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the Alaska Ocean Cluster in its mission, efforts, and vision for a vibrant**  
2 **coastal economy in the state, its promotion of a diversified and resilient state economy**  
3 **that creates value from ocean resources, and its building of a statewide integrated**  
4 **ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship relating to the state's ocean economy.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** a third of the exclusive economic zone of the United States is along the  
7 state's coastline, and the only Arctic region in the nation lies in the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** the state's ocean economy is substantial and holds tremendous potential,  
9 with over half of the nation's seafood harvest, coastline, and renewable ocean energy  
10 potential; and

11 **WHEREAS** it is conservatively predicted that the global ocean economy will double  
12 to an estimated \$3 trillion by 2030; and

13 **WHEREAS** clusters are the engines behind more than 50 ocean industry growth  
14 initiatives underway around the world; and

15 **WHEREAS** clusters have been hugely successful elsewhere in the world, with a

1 leading example in Iceland; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Ocean Cluster promotes and expands the state's ocean  
3 economy by leveraging existing strengths while supporting innovation and emerging  
4 opportunities to diversify the state's economy, benefiting the residents of the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Ocean Cluster has a broad focus on the ocean economy,  
6 including ocean energy production, fisheries, and transportation, and has identified  
7 mariculture, increased fish utilization, incubation of innovative ocean-based businesses, and  
8 ocean technology research and development as current priorities; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Ocean Cluster's efforts to advance innovation and  
10 entrepreneurship in the state's ocean economy will move the entire state forward to catch up  
11 with global trends; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature has recognized the accomplishments of the  
13 Alaska Ocean Cluster since the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association launched the initiative in  
14 May 2017; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature welcomes the Alaska Ocean Cluster's work  
16 toward a knowledge-based, innovative economy centered around the state's ocean resources;  
17 and

18 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature supports advancing the state's ocean  
19 economy through a statewide collaborative cluster and recognizes this project as necessary,  
20 lest the state be left behind as other Arctic nations realize the potential of ocean-based  
21 economies; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the current efforts and  
23 partnerships of the Alaska Ocean Cluster as critical in driving innovation, commercialization,  
24 and entrepreneurship, which are the foundations of a thriving economy;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature welcomes opportunities to  
26 collaborate with the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association's Alaska Ocean Cluster program as a  
27 partner; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska  
29 Ocean Cluster's strategy for growing the state's economy, which is focused on building a  
30 pipeline of innovation and entrepreneurship to engage and connect residents of the state in  
31 this growing ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, capitalizing on economic

1 opportunities, and increasing the resilience of the state's coastal communities; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Alaska

3 Ocean Cluster's efforts to build sustainable, collaborative, and interconnected ocean industry

4 networks throughout the state by acting as a facilitator and hub in the ocean economy space.