

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORLD TRADE

Introduced: 5/11/21

Referred: Senate Special Committee on World Trade

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the United States Trade Representative to bring a renewed focus on the**
2 **plight of producers of seafood in the state and the United States and to compel China to**
3 **comply with its commitment to increase its imports of seafood products from the United**
4 **States.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** the harvesting and production of seafood is a vital part of the state's
7 history and future and is an important economic engine for the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** state and federal fisheries occurring in and adjacent to state waters
9 regularly provide 60 percent of the seafood sold in the United States domestic market; and

10 **WHEREAS** fair access to export markets is critical for the state's seafood producers
11 and economy, with up to 80 percent of Alaska seafood landings by volume destined for
12 export; and

13 **WHEREAS** producers of Alaska seafood have long faced unfair barriers to entry in
14 key export markets and now face steep new barriers to entry in some of their most important
15 markets; and

1 **WHEREAS** the total value of seafood exports from the state and from the United
2 States has declined in recent years as a direct result of these barriers, hurting the state's
3 seafood producers and the state economy at large; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, exports of United States seafood to China were reduced by 44
5 percent as compared to 2017 levels, a flagrant violation of purchase commitments made by
6 China under the Economic and Trade Agreement Between the Government of the United
7 States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed on
8 January 15, 2020; and

9 **WHEREAS** seafood exports have too often been overlooked or under-prioritized by
10 United States trade negotiators, as evidenced by the complete omission of seafood from the
11 2019 Trade Agreement Between the United States of America and Japan;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on United States Trade
13 Representative Katherine Tai and the Office of the United States Trade Representative to
14 bring a renewed focus on the plight of United States seafood producers and to secure China's
15 immediate compliance with its commitments relating to the importation and purchase of
16 United States seafood exports.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
18 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and
19 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative; and the
20 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
21 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.