

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins

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From: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Sitka Legislative Information Office
201 Katlian Street, #103, Sitka, AK 99835

To: Shawn Carey, Grants Program Officer
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Alaska Region
907-586-7845
shawn.carey@noaa.gov

September 28, 2013

Mr. Carey,

I am writing in support of the grant proposal from the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF) entitled, *Alaska Mariculture Initiative*.

I represent, and write on behalf of, the communities of rural Southeast Alaska. I believe that the mariculture industry has the potential to generate new jobs across this region -- in farming, fishing, and supportive industries like research, seed supply, and infrastructure creation. At the same time, I know increased mariculture production has a proven beneficial impact on marine habitat.

This grant can be the bed of support for the growth of this industry in Alaska. AFDF has the expertise and experience to execute the *Alaska Mariculture Initiative* with a sound methodological approach working towards clearly defined objectives. Their inclusive and strategic approach will facilitate the expansion of a resilient industry, creating new jobs and boosting the sales of seafood.

That is why I stand proudly in support of the foundation as applicants for this grant. Feel free to contact my office if I can answer any more questions in this regard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JKT".

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins