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Shawn Carey
Grants Program Officer
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Alaska Regional Office
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Mr. Carey,

I am pleased to express my support for a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant application submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation (AFDF).

I understand the mariculture industry could provide new jobs in rural, coastal Alaska for farmers and fishermen, as well as those supporting the industry with research, seed supply, and infrastructure. These jobs could be economically beneficial to the communities in which the activities occur, and ecologically beneficial to marine habitat. It is my understanding that the mariculture industry needs increased capacity in order to actualize its potential. AFDF believes the efforts outlined in its "Alaska Mariculture Initiative" will broaden the vision and constituency of mariculture, which could include development of aquatic farming and restoration and wild fishery enhancement.

Consistent with all relevant rules, laws, and regulations, I respectfully request that you give all due consideration to the application submitted by the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this matter to your attention.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator