



February 27, 2018

Senator Ana MacKinnon, Co-Chair
Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 532
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senators MacKinnon & Hoffman,

Re: House Bill 128 – Shellfish Enhance. Projects; Hatcheries

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 128, relating to management of enhanced stocks of shellfish; authorizing certain nonprofit organizations to engage in shellfish enhancement projects; relating to application fees for salmon hatchery permits.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 working to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. The Chamber is the voice of small and large businesses representing hundreds of employers and local chambers across Alaska. Our member companies employ over 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

House Bill 128 will create a statutory framework in which the Alaska Department of Fish & Game can regulate shellfish fishery enhancement and restoration, and the hatcheries that would conduct such efforts. Enhancement and restoration of shellfish populations will help bolster and expand opportunities in coastal communities in Alaska where the mariculture industry can play a vital role in providing economic opportunities for their citizens.

We encourage you to schedule a hearing for HB 128, and send it on its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curtis W. Thayer', written over a horizontal line.

Curtis W. Thayer
President & CEO

Cc: Senator Click Bishop, Vice-Chair
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Natasha von Imhof
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Gary Stevens