

**Petersburg Borough, Petersburg, Alaska  
RESOLUTION #2017-19**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES SENATE BILL 1323, THE YOUNG FISHERMEN'S DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2017**

**WHEREAS**, Alaska produces over 50% of seafood in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial fishing is one of the most important statewide and local economic industries supporting over sixty thousand jobs in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's commercial fishing catch provides local food security, and significantly contributes to the global food supply, including U.S. exports; and

**WHEREAS**, the "graying" of Alaska's commercial fishing fleet is a true concern for the state, potentially jeopardizing the future of this essential industry; and

**WHEREAS**, breaking into the commercial fishing industry as a young person is very difficult; and

**WHEREAS**, the initial investment and knowledge base required for start-up as a commercial fisherman can be prohibitive to overcome; and

**WHEREAS**, various forms of limited entry have significantly increased the capital cost of entry into fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the diverse skill set associated with commercial fishing, including navigation, seamanship, mechanical/engine repair, electronics, biology, environmental sustainability, product care, primary processing, value added processing, safety, and employee and financial management, can be very difficult to acquire; and

**WHEREAS**, development programs to assist young fishermen are extremely important for maintaining the integrity and competitiveness of the Alaskan and national commercial fishing fleets; and

**WHEREAS**, this Act provides essential federal funding that will leverage the knowledge, programs and resources available from Tribal and Alaska Native organization, statewide educational institutions and trade organizations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Petersburg Borough Assembly supports United States Senate Bill 1323, the Young Fishermen's Development Act of 2017 and appreciates Alaska Senators Sullivan and Murkowski, Massachusetts Senator Markey and Washington Senator Cantwell for their vision and support of this vital industry.

**Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg Alaska this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.**

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**Mark Jensen, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk**