

Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association, Inc.
PO Box 153
Yakutat, AK 99689

February 5, 2013

Honorable Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Honorable Alan Austerman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sen Stevens and Rep Austerman,

The Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association (YRAA) was recognized by the Commissioner of Fish and Game in September 2011 as the regional aquaculture association for the Yakutat region. In July of 2012, YRAA received from the Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development authorization and start of payments of the \$100,000 grant provided to every newly formed regional aquaculture association under AS 16.10.510(8).

We are writing today to request additional grant funding in the amount of \$200,000 for the Yakutat Regional Aquaculture Association as part of a Capital Improvement Project. AS 16.10.510(8) authorizing the \$100K grant was enacted in approximately 1977 and that funding equates to \$23,394 in today's buying power. In the legislation that established the grant it states "It is the policy of the state, under AS 16.10.500 - 16.10.560, to promote the enhancement of the state's fisheries by means of grants for organizational and planning purposes to regional associations described in AS 16.10.510 that have qualified under AS 16.10.380. . . " The \$100K grant is inadequate to provide enough funding

for organizational and planning purposes in order to be in a position to approach the DCCED loan program for a hatchery permit.

The grant funding we are requesting would be used to finish the Yakutat Comprehensive Salmon Plan update to completion (\$100K) and planning, data gathering for permitting of enhancement in the Yakutat region, set up an office in Yakutat and an employee to see these tasks to completion (\$100K).

YRAA is using the current grant funds received to start the Yakutat Comprehensive Plan update (originally written in 1984 and states no hatchery enhancement will occur in the region) at \$50K, Planning and implementing an enhancement tax assessment election at \$30K and other organizational tasks at \$20K such as board election votes, meetings, filings for permits and IRS tax exemption status etc. YRAA should know by mid-April if the tax election vote was successful but funding wouldn't be received until July of 2014 for tax funds collected in the remainder of 2013.

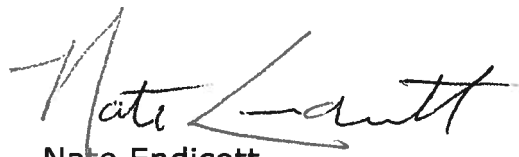
As you are aware, the Kodiak Comprehensive Plan update ended up costing approximately \$225K. With our current plan stating no hatchery or enhancement, an update is absolutely critical for permitting to move forward. We have contracted for the update to be written with the contract split in thirds with the first payment due (which funding is secured for with the first grant) on a first draft provided to YRAA and RPT for comments, second payment after YRAA & RPT/ADFG comments are included and a public hearing is conducted and the final payment when the Commissioner of ADFG signs off on the plan.

Additional information can be found on our website developed as part of the public informational requirement for the tax assessment at www.yraa.org or call 586-6652.

Sincerely,



Larry Bemis
President



Nate Endicott
Vice-President