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Press Release

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Business Counseling Services for Alaska Small Business Export Program for China

*Confidential business counseling services from the Alaska Small Business
Development Center*

(Juneau, AK) – Alaska small businesses have an opportunity to participate in confidential business counseling services aimed at getting small businesses prepared to enter into export trade with China. Through the State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant, a US Small Business Administration program designed to increase US small business exports, the Alaska Small Business Development Center is providing one-on-one business counseling to help revise their business plans to include an export strategy.

For more information on confidential business advising services contact Ryan Gilbert with the Alaska Small Business Development Center in Anchorage at (907) 274-7232, outside Anchorage (800) 478-7232, or email him at ryan.gilbert@aksbdc.org.

China is Alaska's most dynamic and growing foreign market. China topped the list of Alaska's export markets for the first time in 2011, with a 56 percent increase over 2010 to \$1.4 billion total. Alaska's primary exports to China are seafood, mineral ores, forest products, and fish meal. In the decade between 2001 and 2011, Alaska's exports to China grew more than 1,300 percent. With Alaska's strategic proximity to Asia, Alaska businesses are poised for significant continued growth into this key export market.

The Governor's Office of International Trade and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development are partnering on the STEP program. For more information visit the State's home page at www.alaska.gov and find the State Trade and Export Program link under the "Business" tab. You may also contact Glenn Haight, with the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at 907-465-6144 or glenn.haight@alaska.gov.

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