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Press Release

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Alaska Small Business Export Program for China Announced *Exciting new export programs for Alaska small businesses*

(Juneau, AK) – Alaska small businesses have an opportunity to participate in a new program aimed at increasing exports to China, the fastest growing export location for Alaska businesses. The State of Alaska was awarded a State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) grant from the US Small Business Administration to provide business training, counseling, and financial assistance for translation services and participation in trade missions to qualifying small businesses interested in exporting to China. The program is an effort to increase US small business exports.

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 1300 percent. With Alaska's strategic proximity to Asia, Alaska's businesses, including small 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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