March 23, 2015

Dear Interested Reader,

Inside the *Bering Strait Voices on Arctic Shipping, Workshop Report* you will find a modern synthesis of concerns and priorities from Bering Strait residents as they gathered in Nome and met with ocean policy experts from September 16-17, 2014.

Building on the inherent strengths of our cultural values, Kawerak assists the tribes and residents of the Bering Strait Region to create a positive future. Kawerak’s organizational goal is to assist Alaska Native people and their governing bodies to take control of their future. Kawerak operates programs ranging from education to transportation, and natural resource management to economic development.

Kawerak’s newly created Marine Program will be a crucial component of our organizational team in order to accomplish that goal. The workshop report is the result of a shared vision of several organizations and surely will be one of many testimonials to come as we address increased shipping and climate change. As you read the report I hope you are better able to understand the important issues from our local communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Melanie Bahnke, President

Kawerak, Inc.