

Testimony before the House Resources Committee 3/26/18
RE: Appointment of Teresa Sager Albaugh

My name is April Ferguson. I work for Bristol Bay Native Corporation, as a Sr. Vice President and General Counsel. I have the privilege of sitting as Chair of the AFN Legal and Legislative Committee. The Bristol Bay Region has over 8,000 residents, not all shareholders or Native, but most of whom rely in some part on hunting, fishing, gathering and subsistence.

Thank you to the Co-Chairs for allowing me to testify today. Respectfully, I am here today to speak against the confirmation of Ms. Teresa Sager Albaugh. . I ask that you look closely at Ms. Albaugh's policy positions, affiliations and voting history. I do not believe that she is the right person for this job.

Ms. Albaugh has not demonstrated an understanding of or sensitivity to subsistence needs. It is a job that should be given to individuals who are thoughtful, sensitive to our state history and challenges and who work to create solutions

For instance, The BOG in 2006, unanimously found that the Tier 11 hunt is broken, unfair and plagued with inequities and false applications. After much work, the BOG in 2009 established the Community Subsistence Hunt, a special subsistence hunt for communities that factually demonstrate and observe a set of hunting and sharing traditions. Albaugh has routinely voted against the CSH and has worked actively to eliminate or oppose well managed subsistence hunts.

I have been paying closer attention to what the BOG is doing after that horrific hunt last year in the Ahtna region where 72 groups composed of over 3000 individuals competed for 100 moose.

Groups like the "Mat-Su Slayers," "Rasberry Rebels," "Jule Friends and Family," "Mat-Su Moose Munchers," "Anchorage Wheelers," "Bicycle Collective," "Meadow Lake Meatavors," "Hunt for Fun" and others participate in the CSH and harvest bulls that would have gone to the original CSH participants if the system were allowed to function correctly.

All of these groups harvested in the 2016-17 hunt. All except "Anchorage Wheelers" harvested an "any bull" – not an antler-restricted moose. At least some of them appear not to be primarily subsistence users at all, and likely do not meet all of the qualifications to participate in the hunt.

I believe that as reflected by Teresa's voting record and under her influence and efforts to weaken the CSH is it not meeting the needs it was intended to meet.

I respectfully request that this body vote against confirmation of this candidate for the BOG.