



North Pacific Fisheries Association
P.O. Box 796 · Homer, AK · 99603

March 20, 2016

Re: Confirmation of Robert Ruffner for Appointment to State of Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear State of Alaska Legislators,

The North Pacific Fisheries Association would like to express our support for Robert Ruffner as a candidate for the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries. NPFA is a multi gear, multi species commercial fishing organization representing about fifty family fishing operations, mostly based out of Homer. Our members participate in many fisheries throughout the State from Southeast to the Bering Sea. Our group has participated in the Board of Fish process since its inception and we continue to be involved and are familiar with the politics of it.

Members of our board of directors recently had the opportunity to meet with and interview Mr. Ruffner for a second time and again discuss the possibility of him serving on the Board of Fisheries, this time for a different seat. Having reviewed his resume and discussing a variety of relevant topics and issues our board has voted unanimously to again support Mr. Ruffner. Even though Mr. Ruffner has been appointed to succeed a seated Board of Fisheries member with commercial fishing experience we continue to endorse him as his values and impartiality make him an excellent candidate. This is the type of Board member our group would like to see more of. In our view the constituency which Mr Ruffner represents is the fish and the habitat. He understands the constitutional mandates and practicality of harvesting the resource for the people of Alaska today and in the future.

The NPFA board members think that Mr. Ruffner's science education and experience makes him an excellent candidate. We feel he will make evidence based decisions and will be for the fish. His experience in habitat protection with the Kenai Watershed Forum is crucial to the future of our fisheries. Mr. Ruffner also expressed his desire for an open Board of Fish process, a concept which is valued by our organization.

The North Pacific Fisheries Association supports Robert Ruffner and respectfully requests that Alaska State Legislature confirm his appointment to the Board of Fisheries. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of our Board of Directors,


Malcolm Milne

President, North Pacific Fisheries Association

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