



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 17, 2015

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Robert Ruffner and Al Cain for Board of Fisheries

Dear Representative Stutes and Committee Members,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters.

The UFA board has considered the governor's appointments to the Board of Fisheries and we support the nominations of Robert Ruffner and Al Cain.

Mr. Ruffner has an impressive background in both scientific and public leadership described in his resume. Mr. Ruffner's longtime experience with the Kenai Watershed Forum and Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership shows that he is familiar with the issues that arise in Board of Fisheries work and fisheries management. His scientific studies and personal awards demonstrate that he has a strong dedication to all of the State's different fisheries. Mr. Ruffner's professional background as well as his experience and ability to bring diverse points of view together would bring a unique perspective to the Board while also maintaining balance.

Al Cain's long service as a liaison to the Board regarding enforcement matters would bring a broad statewide knowledge of Alaska's fisheries, and direct expertise and experience with the Board's processes.

The Board of Fisheries is well known to be among the most demanding of all volunteer public service appointments in the state. We feel Mr. Ruffner and Mr. Cain are both highly-qualified applicants and we appreciate their willingness to serve. Thank you for your time and attention to this important appointment.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator