



Alaska Trollers Association

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March 31, 2015

Representative Ben Nageak, Chair
House Resources
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Nageak and Committee Members:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports the reappointment of Orville Huntington to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

Mr. Huntington brings to the Board process a wealth of personal and professional knowledge. As a resident of the rural community of Huslia, he knows well the importance of every type of harvest, from subsistence to commercial.

In his first term on the Board, Orville had an opportunity to learn and make decisions about diverse fisheries from across the state - no easy task! During the Southeast meeting we found him to be attentive to the needs of both the resource and the public and a thoughtful decision-maker. We look forward to working with him in future years.

ATA believes that Mr. Huntington is doing a fine job on the Board of Fisheries and is the type of individual that the state should encourage to serve in this important forum. We urge you to confirm Orville Huntington.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale Kelley".

Executive Director

My name is Todd Smith. I am a life-long peninsula resident and avid fisherman - both sport, personal use, and commercial. I would like to voice my support for **both** Board of Fish appointees before you today.

At the board meetings I have attended, Mr. Huntington has been open and honest – willing to listen to all sides, and not afraid to speak to what he feels is right and fair. His perspective, openness, fairness, and knowledge of statewide fisheries are an asset to all Alaskans, and he represents our best interests well. I encourage you to confirm his continued service on the Board of Fish.

As a fisherman and Peninsula resident active in my community, I have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ruffner and have followed his work. He is level-headed, honest, fair, and willing to listen to everyone’s point of view. His own point of view carries with it a scientific perspective, and this would be a valuable asset to the board. He is a creative problem solver, has broad fisheries knowledge and has been supportive of and worked with ALL fish user groups and many different organizations – likely why he has broad statewide support from a diversity of interests.

Through his actions, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated that he values the best interest of ALL Alaskans equally. He has taken on tough issues affecting our fish and habitat, and worked towards creative solutions which have helped increase fish production for everyone while improving the user experience for all people, no matter where they may live or what fishery they choose to participate in. I am confident that as a board member Mr. Ruffner would continue to work with all user groups fairly, would advocate for solutions that benefit everyone, and, in keeping with Alaska law, would hold our pristine habitat in the highest regard, understanding that it is an essential base for the productive fish runs that we all value and enjoy.

Mr. Huntington and Mr. Ruffner will be a benefit to all of us, regardless of our fishery of choice or what community we call home. I encourage you vote to confirm them both and to lean on your fellow legislators to do the same.

Thank you,

Todd Smith

Kenai

