

March 19, 2018

Alaska State Legislature  
Representative Louise Stutes  
State Capitol, Rm #406  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

As Alaskan outdoor sporting organizations, we are united in our opposition to Governor Walker's nomination of Duncan Fields, a commercial fisherman from Kodiak, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries as a replacement for retiring Board Member Al Cain from Anchorage.

For many years, the seven-member Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) has been a balanced Board of regional representation, with three people of commercial fishing interests, three people of sport and personal use interests, and one person of subsistence interests. This balanced approach has worked well for Alaska. A balanced Board provides a fair, open and transparent process for addressing the Board's primary responsibility to allocate the harvestable surplus and the burden of conservation among competing users.

In this process, the Anchorage area, home to nearly half of the State's population, cannot be left without direct representation. Members of the Board are chosen by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature based on good judgment, interest in public affairs, knowledge, and ability. A well-balanced Board also represents a diversity of interest and points of view. Although not required by statute, geographic representation has been a hallmark of this process.

To assure fair representation of all fishery sectors, this balance of three commercial, three sport/personal use and one subsistence representatives — in place since the mid-1990s — must be preserved. The appointment of Mr. Fields alters that balance and threatens a return to earlier times when commercial fishing interests dominated the Board with little regard for sport, personal use and subsistence fishers.

With respect to Alaska Board of Fisheries appointments, it matters where people are from and where their experience lies. We urge you to keep the Board fair, equitable and balanced by Voting No on the confirmation of Mr. Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



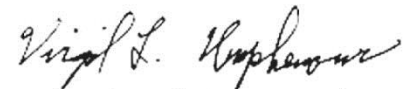
Alaska Chapter Safari Club International



Alaska Outdoor Council




Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association




Fairbanks Fish & Game A/C



Kenai River Professional Guide Association



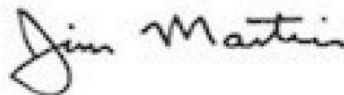
Matanuska Valley Sportsmen



Southeast Alaska Guides Organization



Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.



Alaska Charter Association



Alaska Sportfishing Association



Chitina Dipnetters Association



Kenai River Sportfishing Association



Mat-Su Fish and Wildlife Commission



Southcentral Alaska Dipnetters Association



Tanana Valley Sportsmen



Tsiu River Coalition