

Office of Governor Michael Dunleavy
3rd Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Chignik Intertribal Coalition's Letter of Support for the Reappointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Hon. Dunleavy,

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition wishes to express its support for the reappointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. The Coalition is comprised of the five federally-recognized tribes in the Chignik area – Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville – and works to preserve and advance the economic and social interests of its members. Commercial salmon fishing is the sole economic base of every municipality, most businesses, and a majority of the individuals living and working in the Chignik area. Following the failure of the sockeye run in 2018, the Coalition was created in order to advance Chignik area economic interests and assist individuals amidst the fall-out of the 2018 season.

The Chignik sockeye fishery is an historic fishery, and commercial fishing is an ingrained way of life for generations of people in and around the Chignik area. The Chignik sockeye fishery is wedged in between two larger intercept fisheries – the Kodiak Area fisheries to the East, and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries to the West – that routinely harvest significant numbers of sockeye bound for the Chignik area. Decisions made by the Board of Fisheries about how to best manage these surrounding intercept fisheries are crucially important to the survival of the Chignik sockeye fishery, and the economic and cultural survival of Coalition members.

Since John Wood was appointed in 2019, he has shown himself to be a quick study of complex management issues with a willingness to view issues from an independent point of view. He has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to listen to and understand all sides of complicated issues and achieve reasonable and equitable management compromises. The Board of Fisheries needs intelligent, perceptive, fair minded individuals like John Wood. Alaska's natural fishery resources are vitally important and deserve highly qualified members like John Wood to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition strongly supports the appointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,



George Anderson
President, Chignik Intertribal Coalition

Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House