



Southeast Alaska Guides Organization

March 8, 2019

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization
1600 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901

The Honorable Chris Birch
Chairman, Alaska Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for Governor's appointees to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Dear Senator Birch,

Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO) represents more than 300 Alaskan sport fishing businesses that contribute substantially to the Alaskan economy, and directly support many Alaskan families and their communities. We write to recommend the confirmation of Israel Payton, Karl Johnstone, Marit Carlson-Van Dort, and Gerad Godfrey to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Both Mr. Payton and Mr. Johnstone have served competently in prior terms on the Board.

We've interacted with Mr. Payton during his current appointment, and our experience has been positive. He is attentive and engaged during Board process. During deliberations, he has clear opinions and articulates his rationale for his position well. We've found him to be fair-minded.

Mr. Johnstone's past service on the Board has been exemplary. As testified to by his Board colleagues in past confirmation hearings, he immerses himself in preparation materials, understands and applies Constitutional principals to Board process, is even-handed in weighing stakeholder needs, and puts the resource first. The 29th Legislature presented Mr. Johnstone with a Certificate of Honor, pronouncing him the "gold standard" of public service for his work on the Board of Fisheries.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, and Mr. Gerad Godfrey have yet to participate in the Board of Fisheries process.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's experience in the commercial seining sector, combined with her education in conservation and fisheries science, seem a good backdrop for service on the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Godfrey's background in law, together with participation on numerous Alaska Boards and Committees and early seasonal commercial fishing experience, appear to make him suitable for BOF participation.

SEAGO has no objections to the Governor's choice of candidates, and respectfully request your confirming vote in the upcoming hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Forrest Braden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and a long, sweeping underline.

Forrest Braden
Executive Director, SEAGO
forrest@seagoalaska.org