

April 5, 2019

Via E-Mail to Committee Staff trevor.fulton@akleg.gov

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Chris Birch, Chair

Senator John Coghill, Vice-Chair

Senator Cathy Giessel

Senator Lora Reinbold

Senator Click Bishop

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Re: Supporting confirmation of Gerad Godfrey to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Chair Birch and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Koniag is a regional Alaska Native Corporation formed under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Koniag has nearly 4,100 Alutiiq Shareholders. Our region encompasses the Kodiak Archipelago in the Gulf of Alaska and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula. The communities in our region have traditionally been dependent on fisheries resources for subsistence and commercial purposes for centuries. Koniag has been working on issues affecting viability and sustainability of the village communities of the Kodiak Archipelago and access to fisheries is a critical component of this effort.

Koniag believes Gerad Godfrey would be an excellent member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He is familiar with fisheries issues in Alaska. He is former salmon seine crew member and, like most life-long Alaskans, enjoys sport fishing. Given his Alaska Native heritage, subsistence is also a high priority for Gerad.

Gerad also has an impressive professional history highlighted by leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. He has served on and chaired the Violent Crimes Compensation Board and has also served as chairman for the board of directors for Afognak Native Corporation. He understands board function, deliberation and decision making and has the capacity to analyze complex issues to formulate a position.



3800 Centerpoint Drive
Suite 502
Anchorage, AK 99503

Given his background and experience, Gerad would bring a well-balanced perspective to the Board of Fisheries. He is approachable and listens to all perspectives. He is also aware of and committed to devoting the time necessary to be an effective member of the Board of Fisheries.

As you review appointments to the Board of Fisheries, I believe you will find that Gerad's background makes him an outstanding candidate and Koniag encourages you to confirm Gerad Godfrey to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hegna", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shauna Z. Hegna
President