

Letters of Support of Israel Payton

1. Andy Couch Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory
2. Herb Mansavage Committee
3. Martin Meigs Alaska Sportfishing Association

4. Gary
and
Kathy King

Matt Gruening

From: Andy Couch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 11:13 AM
To: House Fisheries; Senate Resources; House Finance
Subject: Urgent Board of Fisheries Confirmations -- Board of Fisheries appointments Karl Johnstone and Israel Payton

Legislators and Committee Members,

My name is Andrew Couch, I own and operate a sportfishing guide business located in the Matanuska -- Susitna Borough. I am also a member of the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee and the Matanuska -- Susitna Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission -- but am presenting my own personal point of view.

I've been involved in the Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet meetings since the 1980s. I've written several fishery proposals over time, several of which have been adopted by the Board.

KARL JOHNSTONE

I am voicing my support for confirmation of Judge Karl Johnstone's appointment to the Board. Over the years I've attended meetings run by several different Board of Fisheries Chairmen, During his past time on the Board, Mr Johnstone ran fair meetings with the opportunity for public input by all user groups. I appreciated Mr. Johnstone's legal mind and thoroughness of meeting legal requirements and providing specific board intent during board meetings. I appreciate that Mr Johnstone scheduled action on Stock of Concern designated salmon stocks as a priority item for action at the start of the meetings (More Stocks of Concern are located in Northern Cook Inlet than any other area of Alaska). I much appreciate that Chairman Johnstone prioritized managing for sustainability of our fisheries resourced first and foremost. I appreciate that in looking at the amount of harvestable surplus salmon Mr Johnstone sought to provide reasonable harvest opportunities for all user groups --- including Alaska residents -- most of whom do not own commercial fishing permits. I understand and appreciate that in 2015 the Alaska Legislature presented Karl Johnstone with a legislative citation recognizing his outstanding service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. 59 legislators signed on as co-sponsors to that citation.

It is my strong belief that Alaska needs more Board of Fisheries members as dedicated and thorough as Karl Johnstone, who put the resource first and provide opportunities for all resource users, I therefore urge you to do all you can to confirm Karl Johnstone to the Board of Fisheries.

ISRAEL PAYTON

I have been greatly impressed with the service of Israel Payton on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He has heard the concerns of all user groups and made himself available to all user groups. He puts in countless hours of preparation study for the Board of Fisheries, and from my point of view often has a more thorough knowledge of some fisheries issues. He has dedicated large amounts of personal time to Board of Fisheries issues and made difficult votes to manage for sustainability of the fisheries resource, while also weighing reasonable harvest opportunities to be provided for all user groups.

I urge you to support the reconfirmation for Israel Payton to continue to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries,

Feel welcome to ask me questions you may have about Karl Johnstone or Israel Payton.

Other Board of Fish Appointments:

I have not met either of the other two Board of Fisheries appointees, and encourage you as consider their confirmations as well. I understand they would bring different perspectives to the Board of Fisheries, and realize that the Board makes decisions affecting different users with different points of view.

Sincerely,

Andy Couch, owner
Fishtale River Guides

[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Herb Mansavage, Chair

2200 1st Street
Big Lake, AK 99652
(907) 841-8008

Dear Legislators,

The Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee would like to fully support the re-appointment of Israel Payton and Karl Johnstone to the Board of Fisheries. Their commitment to Upper-Cook Inlet and Cook Inlet salmon allocation for Sport, Guided, Personal Use and Subsistence fishing has been exceptional. We also would like to fully support the appointment of Al Barrette to the Board of Game.

Sincerely,

Herb Mansavage, Chair

Matt Gruening

From: Martin L. Meigs <meigs@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 2:38 PM
To: House Fisheries; Senate Resources; House Finance
Subject: Board of Fisheries Support Letter

Honorable Legislators and Committee Members,

We have been involved in the Alaska Board of Fisheries Upper Cook Inlet meetings since the 1980s and have offered constructive fishery proposals over time, many of which have been adopted by the Board.

We are voicing our vehement support for the confirmation of Judge Karl Johnstone to the Board of Fisheries.

Mr. Johnstone has demonstrated top rate professionalism and truly balanced and fair consideration of the proposals that have come before him. You could not find, nor do I know anyone that could better fulfill the responsibilities of the position.

The Alaska Legislature presented Karl Johnstone with a well deserved Legislative Citation recognizing his outstanding service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries and fifty-nine legislators signed on as co-sponsors to that citation!

We much appreciate that Chairman Johnstone prioritized managing for the sustainability of our fisheries resource first and foremost as well as his efforts to provide reasonable harvest opportunities for all user groups, particularly Alaska residents, most of whom do not own commercial fishing permits. People as experienced in fisheries and as dedicated and competent as Karl Johnstone are few and far between!

We therefore urge you to confirm Karl Johnstone to the Board of Fisheries.

Furthermore,

We have been greatly impressed with the dedicated service of Israel Payton on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. He puts in countless hours of personal time studying Board of Fisheries issues, and has a thorough knowledge of our fisheries.

He has made difficult decisions to manage for the sustainability of our fisheries and advocated for reasonable balanced harvest opportunities for all user groups. He has proven to be an invaluable asset of the Board.

We strongly urge you to support the reconfirmation of Israel Payton to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Martin L. Meigs

Martin L. Meigs, Chairman
Alaska Sport Fishing Association
6990 Lakeway Dr
[REDACTED]
www.AlaskaSFA.org

Matt Gruening

From: Fish Like a Wildman <wildman@fishlikeawildman.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:46 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: Board of Game and Fisheries Appointments

Dear Representative Stutes:

As lifetime Alaskans from your district who depend on Alaska's Fisheries and Wildlife for not only personal use, but also our Tourism Business as well. We employ 12 to 16 licensed Alaska sport fishing guides, hunting guides, pilots and support persons in the business we have owned and operated for the past 36 years. Our alone business brings over two million "Out of State" tourism dollars to Alaska every year. We urge you to support the following appointments:

Board of Fisheries: Karl Johnstone, Israel Peyton,

Board of Game: Jerry Burnette, Orville Huntington and Al Barrette

These are individuals of great knowledge and integrity. They will do the right things Fish and Wildlife, the tourism industry and for the people of Alaska.

Your Hosts at Wildman Lake Lodge,

Gary "Butch" and Kathy King
www.wildmanlodge.com