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August 31, 2002

Senate Resources Committee  
House Joint Fisheries and Resources Committee

**RE: Governor's BOF Appointees**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Friday August 28, 2020, and again this upcoming September 3<sup>rd</sup>. To recap a couple of important issues that are of great concern to the fleet of fishermen I represent.

The BOF candidate selection and confirmation process are BROKEN. I understand it might not be an easy fix, but what worth doing is ever really easy. When well-rounded individuals with years of exemplary service to fisheries around the state are put forth as candidates yet not forwarded, while those with no experience are; the system is BROKEN. Our fisheries and fisheries resources are too important to have people "cut their teeth" on.

NO candidate should be able to sit and make judgement decisions that affect the lives and livelihoods, or historic cultural opportunities of the people of Alaska without first being confirmed. I implore the Senate and House to work together on legislation and/or amendments to the Alaska State Constitution if necessary, to correct this issue. People who are given such power should be seasoned, knowledgeable, and **fully vetted by the confirmation process**, period. I understand the reasoning behind the current language, but that intent has been overshadowed by appointments made intentionally when there is not time to confirm. These expiring terms happen at scheduled times and are not a surprise. The selection, vetting, and confirmation process should start a year out from any given expiring seat to allow for a seamless and consistent sitting Board of Fisheries.

SEAS' fully supports the re-appointment of Mr. Jensen. Member Jensen has served since 2003 and has a wealth of knowledge about Alaska's fisheries. He has demonstrated his approachability to all stakeholders, his knowledge concerning complex user group dynamics, and concern for the fisheries resource as a renewable asset to the state and all its users. Additionally, he is the lone voice of SE Alaska and of coastal communities; **we recommend his confirmation.**

SEAS' agrees with the many callers on Friday that expressed that coastal communities are not adequately represented in the current slate of appointees. We understand that there are no "set" seats, yet there has always been an understanding that any BOF that makes resource decisions throughout the state should also have balanced statewide representation to have any real credibility.

Lastly, while on the subject of coastal representation. There was a name submitted to the Governor, a BOF member whos' term had expired. He had extensive knowledge of all the states fisheries, had demonstrated the desire and capability to understand the diverse issues and deliberate with fairness concerning all user groups, and he did the hard homework. His name- Robert Ruffner, not forwarded for confirmation, yet instead people with absolutely NO knowledge or experience are on your list today; that's criminal! It's an indictment on the many people who depend on this process to ensure the health of the resource and the ability to gain their livelihood from it whether they be commercial, subsistence, or sport fishermen. We wish to thank Mr. Ruffner for his exemplary service and years of dedication to the process. His re-appointment would have served to add coastal representation not to mention much needed experience and knowledge to the BOF.

Thank you

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Doherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Susan Doherty  
Executive Director SEAS