



**North Pacific Fisheries Association, NPFA**

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Representative Geran Tarr, Chair House Fisheries  
State Capitol Room 126 Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Josiah Patkotak, Chair House Resources  
State Capitol Room 102 Juneau AK, 99801

**RE: BOARD OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION – Opposition to Carlson-Van Dort**

Members of the House Fisheries and House Resources Committees,

North Pacific Fisheries Association is an organization established in 1955, based in Homer, Alaska. Our members are Alaskan fishermen and crew that participate in fisheries from the Bering Sea to Dixon Entrance in Southeast. Our membership is dependent on decisions made by the Board of Fisheries for their livelihoods and the coastal communities they live and fish in are dependent on those decisions as well.

**We oppose the confirmation of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.**

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort was chosen to fill a commercial fishing seat on the Board of Fisheries and has demonstrated repeatedly that the only support she is willing to show for commercial fishermen is for Chignik where she has familial and community ties as the President of Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc.

We have strong concerns about her conflicts of interest, but also her ability to come to the table with an open mind and receive public input. In the 2020 Upper Cook Inlet meeting, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort did not provide justification for her support of sport proposals over commercial fishing and in Kodiak she voted solely with Chignik proposals written by fishermen who are shareholders and board members of the Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. Several of the proposals submitted at that meeting came from her first cousin. Her uncle transferred his Chignik salmon permit just weeks before the Kodiak meeting. This removed a technical conflict of interest for Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, allowing her to vote on Chignik issues. In her justification of her vote, she read from prepared comments and said “we” on the record, indicating that she was not voting as a Board of Fish member, but as others would have her vote in support of Chignik, in spite of overwhelming public opposition in the form of comment letters and public testimony from Kodiak fishermen, Native Corporations, and concerned members of the public around the Kodiak Archipelago.

Commercial fishermen have found it difficult to access to Ms. Carlson-Van Dort as a member of the Board of Fisheries. If willing to talk she appears to agree on an issue, but then votes in opposition without justification of her new position. This leads many to conclude that she is not open-minded, and her voting record demonstrates that the only commercial fishing interests she’s willing to entertain are her own, Chignik’s. For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you oppose the confirmation of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

North Pacific Fisheries Association Board of Directors