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April 9, 2021

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: Opposition Märit Carlson-Van Dort Alaska Board of Fisheries**  
**Opposition Melvin Smith CFEC Commissioner**  
**Support John Jensen Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Members of the House Fisheries and House Resource Committees,

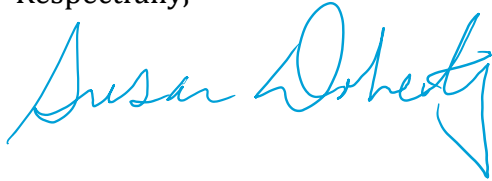
SEAS fully supports the re-appointment of **Mr. Jensen**. Member Jensen has served since 2003 and has a wealth of knowledge about Alaska's fisheries. He has demonstrated his approachability to all stakeholders, his knowledge concerning complex user group dynamics, and concern for the fisheries resource 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.**

In all good conscience, the overwhelming outcry from commercial fisheries groups that attended the Kodiak meetings and the blatant demonstration of bias cannot be ignored. "We", ALL the user groups across the state, depend on the fact that Board of Fish members can be fair and impartial in their decisions; and use science, local knowledge, and Departmental expertise when making their decisions. **Ms. Märit Carlson-Van Dort** has demonstrated this is an issue for her and that track record cannot be denied. For these reasons **we oppose her confirmation.**

Tagging **Melvin Smith** for the open CFEC Commissioner is really sad for all involved. Mr. Smith may be a wonderful individual however, his credentials do not ring true to the statement, "*Gov. Dunleavy selected Mr. Smith because he believes he is the best candidate for the seat on the CFEC,*" spokesman Jeff Turner wrote. If anyone in the administration had solicited for qualified candidates prior to announcing his selection, there would have been many candidates to vie for the six-figure position. CFEC is too important to the commercial fishermen who rely on their services and not only pay for said services, but also generate a hefty overage used to support other programs. CFEC data and the integrity of that data has always been impeccable, and is essential in documenting how vital this renewable resource is to the state of Alaska, and for performing their statutory duties. To continue this, they need a "highly qualified" candidate, and for these reasons **we oppose his confirmation.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Doherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Doherty" clearly legible.

Susan Doherty  
Executive Director SEAS