



Senator Josh Revak, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Revak:

How are you Senator? I can't believe it's been a half year since our last visit when you were in Unalaska last summer. What a great time... I'm still not sure who won at our badminton game, so I'm up for a rematch anytime!

I'm writing you today to support Melvin Smith for the Commissioner for the Commercial Fisheries Entry commission (CFEC). Melvin has participated in a wide range of fisheries across the state, with over 20 years of commercial fishing experience in Alaska. As a shareholder of the Aleut Corporation, Koniag Corporation, and Village Corporation of False Pass, he has experienced the importance of the CFEC from the lens of a Native Alaskan that lived in rural Alaska. I have confidence that Mr. Smith's perspective and background will represent well all Alaskans, including the thousands of Alaska native permit holders across the state.

I've worked with Melvin for many years in our roles at Ounalashka Corporation and The Aleut Corporation and I hold Melvin in high esteem. In addition to his fisheries experience, he has decades of experience as the General Manager for Aleut Real Estate which handles not only the native land claims but also was responsible for commercial real estate investments.

Mr. Smith's fisheries and professional background makes me certain he is qualified for the position of Commissioner for the State of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christopher P. Salts, Sr.' with a stylized 'A' at the end.

Christopher P. Salts, Sr.
Chief Executive Officer



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PO Box 149, Unalaska, Alaska 99685-0149

The Honorable Joshua Revak
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 27, 2021

Re: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Confirmation of Mr. Melvin Smith

Dear Senator Revak:

I am writing to express my support and to urge your support of Mr. Melvin Smith to the position of Commissioner for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). I have known Melvin for 14 years and I know he will represent the state well.

Mr. Smith will make an excellent Commissioner of CFEC. Born and raised in False Pass, he comes from a long line of Alaska based commercial fishermen. Twenty (20) years of commercial fishing experience in Alaska, participating in multiple fisheries and areas across the state, give him an in-depth firsthand experience in the Alaska commercial fishing industry. His 20 years of responsible management experience as a corporate executive give him a background in working with committees and boards. He knows the industry and has a long track record of working with people from a Native perspective.

As a shareholder of the Aleut Corporation, Koniag Corporation, and the village corporation of False Pass (Isanotski Corp.), Melvin knows the importance of the role of the CFEC from the perspective of a Native born and raised in a fishing village, versed in the fishing industry, and experienced in the corporate world. There are thousands of Alaska native permit holders across the state. Mr. Smith's experience and background give us confidence this demographic and all commercial fishermen will be well represented by a person well versed in the industry, the people it serves, and the importance of commercial fisheries to all Alaskans.

Mr. Smith is eminently qualified for the position of Commissioner for the State of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely



Al Vezey



Coastal Villages Region Fund

711 H Street, Suite 200 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501 • Phone 907.278.5151 • Fax 907.278-5150

February 23, 2021

The Honorable Joshua Revak
Senate Natural Resources
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Revak,

I write in support of Mr. Melvin Smith to the position of Commissioner for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC).

With Mr. Smith broad experiences, Coastal Villages Region Fund is confident he will make an excellent Commissioner of CFEC. Mr. Smith has over 20 years of commercial fishing experience in Alaska, participating in a wide range of fisheries and areas across the state.

As a shareholder of the Aleut Corporation, Koniag Corporation, and Village Corporation of False Pass, Mr. Smith's has experienced the importance of the CFEC from the lens of a Native Alaskan that lived in rural Alaska. With thousands of Alaska native permit holders across the state Mr. Smith's perspective and background give us the confidence this demographic and all Alaskans will be well represented.

In addition to his fisheries background, Mr. Smith has had decades of experience as the General Manager for Aleut Real Estate which handles not only the native land claims but also was responsible for commercial real estate investments.

We believe that a Commissioner with Mr. Smith's fisheries and professional background makes him eminently qualified for the position of Commissioner for the State of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and we urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Eric Deakin
Chief Executive Officer



April 10, 2021

Sent Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Geran Tarr
Chair
House Fisheries Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

Re: Support for Melvin Smith's Nomination to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Dear Chair Tarr, Vice Chair Stutes, and Members of the House Fisheries Committee:

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) writes to express our support of Melvin Smith, the Governor's nominee to serve as a Commissioner on the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). We likewise urge you to support Mr. Smith's nomination.

AFN has carefully examined Mr. Smith's professional experience, his commercial fishing history, his support from other commercial fisherman across the state, as well as his personal background, and we believe he would be an outstanding candidate to help lead the CFEC.

Founded in 1966, AFN is the oldest and largest statewide Native membership organization in Alaska. Our membership includes all three primary sectors of the Alaska Native community that exercise authority over or owe a responsibility to Alaska Native peoples. Today we represent nearly 140,000 Alaska Natives—or one out of every five Alaskans—through nine Alaska Native regional for-profit and 166 Alaska Native village for-profit corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 12 regional not-for-profit Alaska Native organizations (or tribal consortia) that administer federal programs for "Indians" pursuant to the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, and 169 federally recognized Alaska Native tribes that are eligible to receive federal services in accordance with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribal List Act. Our mission, among other things, is to advance and enhance the political voice of the Alaska Native community on issues of mutual concern, including Alaskans who are nominated by governors to help manage our state's fish and game.

Mr. Smith has more than 25 years of commercial fishing experience in Alaska's salmon, herring, halibut, and crab industries. He also has more than 20 years serving in various executive-level management positions at this regional Native corporation, The Aleut Corporation, including as a Resources and Fisheries Specialist. All of this has provided Mr. Smith with an extensive understanding of Alaska's commercial fisheries.

Moreover, Mr. Smith routinely lends his time and talents to a number of statewide and regional boards, most of which are fisheries related, such as the False Pass Fisheries Development Association, The Aleut Corporation – Fisheries Committee, Alaska Sea Otter and Stellar Sea Lion Association, SWAMC – Fisheries Committee, Isanotski Corporation, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Aleutian East Borough School District, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council – Kodiak/Aleutians Region Lands, City of False Pass, and even AFN's own Lands Committee.

Apart from this Mr. Smith possess excellent logical reasoning, analytical, and decision-making skills, all of which will be beneficial to CFEC work as he analyzes a complex fisheries to render sound decisions as a Commissioner.

We can think of no better nominee to serve as a Commissioner on the Commercial Fishing Entry Commission than Melvin Smith. On behalf of our board of directors and membership, we urge you to support his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES



Julie Kitka
President

Cc. M. Smith
J. Moller, Policy Advisor, Governor Dunleavy
G. Ritaco, Director, Boards and Commissions