

Senate Resources Committee 4.16.21

**Letters of Support for Marit Carlson-Van Dort-nominee for Board of Fish
(printed 4.16.21)**

Chitina Dipnetters Association

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April 16, 2021

Senate Resources Committee:

The Chitina Dipnetters Association, representing the some 10,000 Alaska residents who each year partake in the Chitina Personal Use Dip Net Fishery, are in support of confirming Marit Carlson-van Dort, John Wood, Mckenzie Mitchell, Abe Willams and John Jensen for the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF). By confirming these candidates the Legislature will, with the incumbents, maintain the existing BOF that has by their vote proven to be unbiased and hold the best interests of maintaining healthy fisheries for all Alaskans.

Thank you,

Seth Duggan

From: Anna Crary <annachapmanrary@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: Support for the confirmation of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Revak,

I write to express my strong support that the Legislature reappoint Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am an attorney with the Anchorage law firm Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP, and I represent the Chignik Intertribal Coalition, an organization comprised of the five federally-recognized Tribes within the Chignik Region: Ivanof Bay, Perryville, Chignik, Chignik Lagoon, and Chignik Lake. I have worked with the CIC at a number of Board meetings, and can confirm from first-hand experience that Ms. Carlson-Van Dort is an excellent Board member and a crucial asset to the continued viability of all fisheries in Alaska.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort is eminently qualified to be reappointed as a member of the Board of Fisheries. Since her initial appointment to the Board in 2019, Marit Carlson-Van Dort has repeatedly demonstrated her understanding of the heavy responsibility that comes with serving on the Board of Fish. Her ability to weigh all sides of the many complex issues that come before the Board and make well-reasoned yet difficult decisions is a valuable asset for the State of Alaska. Her background in resources management and commercial fishing combined with her academic training in conservation biology and fisheries science equips her with a wealth of knowledge and expertise and the ability to think critically and weigh important information that is essential to a successful and diligent Board.

Before voting, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort seeks to understand the impacts of proposals upon all stakeholders, including subsistence, sport, and commercial fishers – as a good Board Member should do. She understands and reviews the science behind all proposals and believes in sustained yield management principles, which is crucial to the health and well-being of Alaska's fishing industry.

I am aware of opposition to Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's reappointment from a minority of commercial stakeholders, primarily from Kodiak, who are upset with a decision made by the Board in January 2020 that changed the regulations for the Cape Igvak commercial sockeye fishery. Those changes, long overdue, were necessary to ensure that management of that fishery was consistent with sustained yield – a constitutional requirement for fisheries management.

The reasons advanced in opposition to her reappointment are untruthful and without merit. First, many of these "reasons" focus upon alleged conflicts of interest presented by her extended family's interests in commercial fisheries throughout Alaska. The Alaska Department of Law has, on multiple occasions, conducted a thorough evaluation of Ms. Carlson-Van Dort's disclosures, and has routinely concluded that she is in full compliance with the Executive Branch Ethics Act. If you doubt those conclusions, I suggest you contact the Dept. of Law directly.

Second, that a member of the Board of Fisheries has extended family members who are also commercial and subsistence fishery stakeholders is nothing new in Alaska. Indeed, many, if not all, other Board members and nominees are in the same boat, so to speak, with respect to family and professional connections to the fisheries they regulate. It would be unprecedented for the Legislature to consider such relationships as disqualifying an appointee. Indeed, it would likely doom the Legislature's ability to confirm qualified applicants in the future.

Finally, I also must draw attention to the fact that opposition to Ms. Carlson-Van Dort takes issue with her "demeanor" at the Kodiak meeting. Another nominee before the Senate Resources Committee - John Wood (whom I also urge you to confirm) - was on the Board during the Kodiak meeting and voted along with Ms.

Carlson-Van Dort to change the Cape Igvak regulations. I have yet to hear any comments or concerns about his "demeanor" during that same meeting - suggesting to me that this specific attack is arbitrary and sexist.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort is an intelligent and experienced Alaska Native woman and leader. She seeks out and listens to all stakeholder opinions and perspectives – in particular, those held by Alaska's tribes and tribal organizations. Her service on the Board of Fisheries is an asset to Alaska. Please vote to confirm her renomination.

Sincerely,

Anna C. Crary

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Anna Chapman Crary

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." Attributed to Talmud.

Betty Tangeman

From: kevin currier <kevincurrier@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Senate Resources; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Sara Hannan; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; House Resources
Subject: Board of Fisheries confirmation hearing

I am Kevin Currier, I am an Alaskan commercial fisherman, owner/operator F/V Capucine AK 79030, and I support Marit Carlson-Van Dort to be reappointed to the Board of Fisheries.

I have known Marit Carlson-Van Dort for three decades. I commercially fished with Marit in 1995. Throughout the years she has been a strong, intelligent, and independent character, just as she was on the back deck so many years ago.

She comes from a commercial fishing family. I see this as an asset and should be a requirement for Board of Fisheries appointees, who's decisions have a direct effect on my livelihood and everybody else's in the industry. Her history in the Chignik seine fishery should not be held against her when she votes using science and fact, instead of wavering in the tide of appeasement. It takes a strong character to upset the room. Bending to one user group is not the Board's job, and Marit Carlson Van-Dort does not do this. Her strength should not cost her her position.

Kevin Currier
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12020 Cross Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Seth Duggan

From: John Nielsen <via@krsa.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: Support the Gov's Fish Nominees

April 16, 2021

Dear Senator Revak,

I have been an Alaskan resident for over 40 years. We homesteaded, have sons who have commercial fished and use Alaska resources as our primary source of food. We dip net, set net, and rod fish and hunt. Our identity is highly dependent on reaping the harvest God has blessed us with in Alaska.

I'm writing in support of Governor Dunleavy's nominees to the Board of Fisheries: Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, John Jensen, McKenzie Mitchell, and Abe Williams. As a person who loves to fish in Alaska, it's important to me that the people responsible for managing and allocating fish represent all Alaskans fairly. The Governor's nominees come from diverse backgrounds and have expertise in fisheries across the state. I believe these nominees will serve Alaskans well.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort brings a remarkable mind to the board. She has a deep understanding of rural and commercial fisheries. Her experience working for the State, for the private sector, and for ANCSA regional and village corporations give her a great perspective into various stakeholder groups. These experiences also help her understand the impacts her decisions as a Board member have on user groups. Ms. Carlson-Van Dort has been a great Board member and should be confirmed.

Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and John Jensen have already established a track record of service on the Board of Fisheries. Each of them has shown a willingness to work with a large variety of stakeholders in an effort to seek fair and equitable changes to Alaska's fisheries. While the three don't always agree with one another, taken in total their service on the Board has shown their willingness to make decisions based on science, their encouragement of precision in fisheries management when possible, and their respect for historic and emerging user groups in the fisheries.

Mr. Jensen has served Alaska for many years with distinction, both on the State Board of Fisheries and the Federal North Pacific Council. His experience and knowledge of Alaska's various fishery sectors is an asset to our state, and he should continue to serve on the Board.

John Wood has been an excellent Board Member. His ability to grasp a situation, and analyze it from multiple perspectives is likely due to his background as a lawyer – it's a trait that serves Alaska well. Mr. Wood actively works with various stakeholders at the Board of Fish meetings, and is known for bringing together stakeholders from different perspectives and encouraging them to find a solution they can all agree with.

The Governor's nominees are all hard-working Alaskans, and each of them has experience in Alaska's diverse fisheries. I look forward to the balanced and thoughtful perspectives they'll bring to Alaska's fisheries management.

Thank you for your hard work and continued dedication to Alaska. I hope you'll join me in supporting the nominees to the Board of Fisheries and cast your vote to confirm Marit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, John Jensen, McKenzie Mitchell, and Abe Williams.

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