



April 9, 2024

RE: Support for Jake Garner's Appointment to the Alaska Board of Game

Dear Committee Members,

The Ouzinkie Native Corporation Board of Directors respectfully supports the appointment of Jake Garner to the Alaska Board of Game. Jake is an Alaska Native shareholder and Native Village of Ouzinkie tribal member who grew up hunting and subsisting in rural Alaska. He has first-hand experience with the complex game management issues affecting Alaska including subsistence rights and big game hunting management.

Jake has an impressive professional history highlighted by leadership roles including serving as Vice President of Operations for Alutiiq, LLC's federal and commercial construction operations, and serving as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors for Ouzinkie Native Corporation. He understands board function, deliberation and decision making, and has the capacity to analyze complex issues to formulate a position. He is currently the Vice President of Operations for Ouzinkie Native Corporation and was promoted to President effective May 1, 2024.

Given his background and experience, Jake would bring a well-balanced perspective to the Board of Game. He is approachable and listens to all perspectives, and he is also aware of and committed to devoting the time necessary to be an effective member of the Board of Game.

It's important for the State of Alaska to have an engaged and experienced hunter on the Council who is also passionate about protecting Alaska's wildlife. As you review applicants for appointment to the Board of Game, I believe you will find that Jake's background makes him an outstanding candidate. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ouzinkie Native Corporation, I encourage you to confirm Jake Garner to the Alaska Board of Game.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Lorena Skonberg".

Lorena Skonberg  
Board Chair

April 8, 2024

Alaska State Senate Resources Committee  
The Honorable Click Bishop, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Cathy Giessel, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Bill Wielechowski, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Scott Kawasaki  
The Honorable James Kaufman  
The Honorable Forrest Dunbar  
The Honorable Matt Claman

Re: Koniag support of confirmation of Jake Garner to the Alaska Board of Game

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

Koniag is one of the twelve regional Alaska Native Corporations formed under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Koniag, Inc. has over 4,500 Alutiiq Shareholders. Our region encompasses the Kodiak Archipelago in the Gulf of Alaska and a portion of the Alaska Peninsula. In addition to the hub community of Kodiak, there are six village communities within our region who depend on the resources of the land and sea to sustain them.

Koniag earnestly supports the legislative confirmation of Jake Garner to the Alaska Board of Game. From the village of Ouzinkie, Jake grew up hunting and fishing as a way of life. Providing for his family and community through harvest of animals and fish has always been important to Jake. Although Jake no longer resides in Ouzinkie, he continues to serve his community as Vice President of Operations for the Ouzinkie Native Corporation. Further to his commitment to serving, Jake and others recently worked with the Board of Game and Division of Wildlife Conservation to secure subsistence elk permits for the villages of Ouzinkie and Port Lions which will ensure that those communities can harvest elk from the nearby herd. This experience allowed Jake to learn the Board of Game process and inspired him to continue his desire to serve by seeking a seat on the Alaska Board of Game.

Jake is hard working, level-headed and a quick study. He will be able to decipher the abundant materials and technical data to formulate rational decisions on matters that come before the Board of Game that protect the resource while providing opportunity for harvest.

Koniag believes Jake Garner would serve Alaska exceptionally well as a member of the Alaska Board of Game and urges the legislature to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely,



Shauna Hegna  
President

[koniag.com](http://koniag.com)

P (907) 561-2668  
F (907) 562-5258



## RESIDENT HUNTERS OF ALASKA

unapologetically FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS

Working hard to ensure our wildlife is managed sustainably with an emphasis on protecting and enhancing resident hunting opportunities!

[www.residenthuntersofalaska.org](http://www.residenthuntersofalaska.org)

April 9, 2024

To: Senate Resources Committee

Re: Jake Garner, Board of Game appointment

Dear Co-chairs Giessel and Bishop, and members of the Resources Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) **supports** the appointment of Jake Garner to the Alaska Board of Game.

We want to thank Mr. Garner for being willing to serve on the Board of Game, and for meeting with us to discuss his background and issues that come before the Board of Game.

Mr. Garner comes from a subsistence background and has long been involved in wildlife management and hunting issues, particularly in Unit 8, where he has advocated for the people of Ouzinkie and the continuation of their subsistence hunting opportunities. He now lives in Alaska's largest city and knows both sides of the rural/urban hunting issues that often come before the Board of Game. He has a background in conflict resolution, listening and understanding the different sides of issues, that will be beneficial as a board member.

Mr. Garner also holds a current assistant guide license. As this committee is aware, RHAK believes the current makeup of the Board of Game is unbalanced in favor of commercial hunting interests, with a majority of the board being made up of guides and former guides. We discussed this with Mr. Garner; he does not intend to utilize his assistant guide license in the future. We can't automatically preclude supporting a Board of Game appointee based on whether he or she holds a guide license. This is a unique circumstance, and while we fully support Mr. Garner's appointment to the Board of Game, we don't want that to be seen as support for more guides on the board. Less than 1% of Alaska residents hold a big game guide license of any type, and administrations and legislators should strive to have a diversity of interests on the board.

Again, we thank Mr. Garner for being willing to serve on the Board of Game; we support his appointment and look forward to working with him.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards  
Executive Director



April 10, 2024

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Senator Click Bishop  
Senate Resources Committee Co-Chair  
State Capitol Room 504  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senate Resources Committee Co-Chair  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov)

Representative Tom McKay  
Alaska House Resources Committee Chair  
State Capitol Room 128  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov)

**Re: Support for Jake Garner, Curtis Chamberlin, and Marit Carlson-Van Dort's  
Nomination to the Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Senator Bishop, Senator Giessel, and Representative McKay:

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to express our strong support for Jake Garner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Game and Curtis Chamberlin and Marit Carlson-Van Dort's nominations to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. These individuals have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the stewardship of our state's natural resources, and we believe they will bring valuable knowledge and perspectives to their respective boards.

Jake Garner is Alaska Native from the rural village of Ouzinkie. He has an extensive background and engagement with communities in his region. Jake has shown a strong understanding of the delicate balance between conservation and subsistence needs. His ability to bridge traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices makes him an ideal candidate for the Alaska Board of Game.

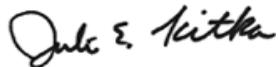
Curtis Chamberlin has deep roots in Alaska's fishing communities, and his comprehensive grasp of the intricacies of fishery management has earned him respect across various sectors. Curtis is Alaska Native with extensive experience working in his region and has a thoughtful and balanced approach to resource management, which are crucial for addressing the complex issues facing Alaska's fisheries today.

AFN has long supported Marit Carlson-Van Dort's. Her expertise in marine policy and dedication to sustainable fisheries management are exceptional. Her leadership in fostering collaboration between stakeholders and promoting balanced decision-making processes that incorporate traditional indigenous knowledge continues to be invaluable to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Their collective experience and commitment to the sustainable management of Alaska's natural resources are in alignment with the values and priorities of the AFN. We are confident that their contributions will advance the mission of the boards in which they're nominated and ensure the interests of all Alaskans. As such, AFN strongly endorses Jake Garner for the Alaska Board of Game and Curtis Chamberlin and Marit Carlson-Van Dort for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for considering our support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss the details and qualifications of these candidates in more detail.

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka  
President

Cc: Alaska Board and Commission