

March 7, 2018

House Fisheries Committee
Representative Louise Stutes, Chair
State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE:Support for Dale Kelley appointment as Commissioner of Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Dear Representative Stutes and House Fisheries Committee Members,

I have known Dale Kelley for over 25 years and have always been very impressed with her intelligence, attention to detail, writing skills, and probably above all, her commitment to the health and well-being of Alaska's fisheries resources and fishing fleets. Although she has been the Executive Director of Alaska Trollers Association (ATA) for nearly 30 years, she has often worked to the mutual benefit of all gear types, even when some of those groups were in direct competition with the commercial troll fleet for the allocation of limited resources.

During my tenure as the ADF&G SE Alaska Regional Salmon Troll Fishery Management Biologist from 2001-2010, I worked extensively and cooperatively with Dale and ATA in the management of the commercial salmon troll fishery. Dale was instrumental in fostering a very high level of trust between the troll management staff and the fleet. She is responsible for the development of a fleet call-in program, where trollers freely provide very confidential information, either directly to the troll staff or through ATA, which enables the Department to efficiently manage the fisheries with a high degree of precision. In addition, through her efforts, the Department and the fleet were often able to work together in the development of management regulations that worked to the benefit of both parties. Even when contentious issues arose, Dale was vital in keeping the differences at a professional rather than an emotional level. I also worked extensively with Dale in the Pacific Salmon Treaty process. Her vast institutional knowledge, gained from years of participation in that process, and the familiarity with the numerous people involved proved invaluable to me in the understanding the history of how and why the various Treaty provisions were established.

Since my retirement from the state I have continued to work directly with Dale on numerous issues. As the Executive Director of Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (2012-2014) I was in almost constant communication with Dale on issues affecting all Alaska commercial fisheries and fishermen. Her vast knowledge of the BOF, USCG, EPA, ADEC, ESA, NOAA/NMFS and many other federal and state agencies and laws once again proved invaluable to me in drafting comment letters and testimony on regulations and issues that impact the fishermen I represented. Over the past four years I have worked directly with Dale to seek greater influence for Alaska on large scale industrial mining development in British Columbia that is occurring in the Transboundary watershed. Again, Dale's knowledge of the region and familiarity with both state and federal political processes has proved to be very valuable in this endeavor.

Based on my aforementioned experiences working with Dale, as well as my knowledge of her participation on numerous boards and commissions not mentioned here, I would highly recommend her for CFEC Commissioner.

Sincerely,



Brian Lynch
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