

From: Bill Eckhardt <via@krsa.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: RE: Opposed to Fields appointment to Alaska Board of Fisheries

March 19, 2018

Dear Senate President Kelly and Speaker of the House Edgmon,

I am very concerned about the appointment of Duncan Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries by Governor Walker. Putting a commercial fisherman from Kodiak into a seat long-held by Anchorage sport fishing advocates is not in the public's best interest.

The boards decisions already seem to favor the commercial fisherman. It is time to level the playing field, not further slant it in favor of commercial fishermen.

A primary function of Alaska Board of Fisheries is to allocate the harvestable surplus of our public fishery resources amongst various user groups - subsistence, sport, personal use and commercial. All user groups deserve a fair shake at the BOF. The board make-up should not be over balanced in favor of one user group.

To keep a balanced interest of user groups on the Board, past Governors have chosen to appoint three sport fish, three commercial and one subsistence person to the Fish Board. No one group dominates the votes.

Every user groups seeks meaningful access and opportunity to the state's fishery resources. With a balanced board, people have faith that allocation decision are made in the best interest in optimizing the values to all user groups, not just a special interest. With this appointment, the Governor threatens that trust in the public process as being impartial and in the best interests of all.

Finally, the Governor is choosing to oust one half of the state's population from having a voice on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. If the Legislature confirms Fields, Anchorage will not have a seat at the table when deciding how to divide up fish. Anchorage residents make up the largest percentage of both sport anglers and dip netters in Alaska. Purposefully silencing this user group is grossly unfair.

I am a lifelong Alaskan, and have Sport fished for over 60 years. I want to be properly represented on the Board of Fisheries. The Governors appointment of Mr. Fields does not accomplish that objective.

Service on the Alaska Board of Fisheries is time-consuming and important work. Who you confirm to serve on the Board greatly impacts its balance, interest and direction. I urge you to Vote No on the Governor's nomination of Duncan Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my ideas about how important fairness and balance is to our public trust in the makeup of the Board. Â

Respectfully,

Bill Eckhardt

Bill Eckhardt
PO Box 249
Sterling, AK 99672

Email address: bill@eckhardt.com
Phone number: 907-227-2755
Additional information about me:
I am a Alaskan Resident, Sport Angler, Hunter, Other Outdoor Sporting Uses