



March 19, 2018

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Chair, House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 4zx
Juneau, AK 99801

Email: representative.louise.stutes@akleg.gov

SUBMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Confirmation of Duncan Fields to Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Representative Stutes:

Koniag, Inc. is one of the twelve regional Alaska Native Corporations formed under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Koniag has approximately 3,900 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 fishery dependent rural communities within our region. Many of the residents in these communities are commercial, subsistence, sport and/or sport charter fishermen as well as Koniag Shareholders. In recent years the Koniag Board of Directors prioritized helping to protect fishery access and maintaining a fisheries economic base for our Shareholders and Shareholder communities in the region. It has come to Koniag's attention that Duncan Fields has been appointed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and this appointment is now under consideration by the Alaska State Legislature for confirmation. Koniag strongly encourages you to vote to confirm Duncan Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.


Koniag has engaged with Duncan Fields for several years. He has often briefed the attendees on fisheries issues at our Koniag/KANA Regional Roundtable meetings that are attended by the ANCSA village corporations and tribal entities of Kodiak Island. He is also a vital participant and subject matter expert in the fisheries advocacy committee that was formed in 2016 to address fisheries issues affecting our village communities and small boat fishermen. We have always found Duncan knowledgeable about the issues and passionate about protecting our fishery resources and maintaining fishing opportunities for rural communities. This aligns with Koniag's goal to provide strong advocacy for our communities and Shareholders on Kodiak Island.

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Duncan Fields has worked with the Alaska Board of Fisheries for many years and is familiar with the Board's processes, Board policies and most state fishery issues. Duncan also served 9 years on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and 7 years on the Council's Advisory Panel. Finally, Duncan has worked extensively with rural communities representing subsistence, sport, sport charter and commercial fishermen. His interests and experience reach beyond the commercial sector as he will continue to support the interests of a variety of Alaska resource users.

Given his wealth of experience and his dedication to public service, Koniag urges you to confirm Duncan Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Please contact Koniag's Regional and Legislative Affairs Executive, Tom Panamaroff at (907) 261-4011 or tpanamaroff@koniag.com if you have any additional questions regarding Koniag's support for the confirmation of Duncan Fields to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,



Shauna Hegna
President

Cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon, Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Mike Chenault, Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins, Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Mark Neuman, Alaska House of Representatives
Representative Geran Tarr, Alaska House of Representatives
Representative David Eastman, Alaska House of Representatives

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