



## **Bering Sea Fishermen's Association**

**821 N Street, Suite 103**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99501**

**(907) 279-6519 or (888) 927-2732**

**FAX (907) 258-6688**

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

Governor Mike Dunleavy

Office of the Governor

PO Box 110001

Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Phone: (907) 465-3500

(907)269-7450

March 31, 2025

*Submitted electronically to:*

Jordan Shilling

Office of the Governor

Director Alaska Boards and Commissions

550 W 7th Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907)269-7450

[jordan.shilling@alaska.gov](mailto:jordan.shilling@alaska.gov)

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

For more than 40 years, the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association has served 128 communities through supporting protection and sustainable development of small boat commercial and subsistence fisheries which are vital economic and traditional drivers in Western Alaska. Further, BSFA supports fisheries science and research to guide and advise tenable and provident fisheries management. Communities we serve rely on salmon and other subsistence resources as a source of physical and cultural nourishment. We are therefore invested in ensuring that diverse representation, including Tribal members and subsistence harvesters (and Tribal subsistence users with commercial fishing experience), exists on decision-making bodies like the Alaska Board of Fisheries who manage our critical fishery resources.

BSFA hereby submits support for Thomas Tilden and Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Both Ms. Irwin and Mr. Tilden have extensive experience participating in the Board process, in addition to leadership and experience in other resource management positions and forums. If appointed to the Board, we strongly believe they would serve capably and objectively to support sustainable fisheries in Alaska.

A lifelong hunter and fisherman, Tom Tilden has served in numerous leadership roles in his hometown of Dillingham and the Bristol Bay region. He is former Chief and currently serves as Second Chief of the Curyung Tribal Council; he had also been elected to Council and as Mayor of the City of Dillingham. For decades, Mr. Tilden has participated in numerous commercial herring, salmon, and halibut fisheries; and has extensive knowledge of fisheries biology and trends. Through the Board of Fisheries, Mr. Tilden will be fully capable of providing learned guidance and commitment to protect the continued sustainable and economic productivity of Alaska fisheries.

Olivia Irwin hails from Nenana and currently serves as Policy Coordinator for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. Ms. Irwin has served as co-chair of the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee and on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council. She has advocated before the Board of Fish, Board of Game, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and Federal Subsistence Board in support of policies to ensure the sustainable harvest of fish and game resources for the benefit of Alaska communities, especially subsistence communities.

Mr. Tilden and Ms. Irwin are dedicated leaders with demonstrated practice of working across user groups and regional affiliation in support of policies that uphold sustained yield and ensure that harvest opportunities exist for all Alaskans. BSFA respectfully encourages you to appoint Mr. Thomas Tilden and Ms. Olivia Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Quyan, thank you for the opportunity to submit our letter of support.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Sparck', with a stylized, cursive script.

Amy Sparck  
Executive Director