



Organized Village of Kake

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(Federally Recognized Tribal Government serving the Kake, Alaska area)



March 14, 2025

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

RE: Organized Village of Kake's Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin to fill second available seat on the Alaska Board of Fish.

Dear Jordan Shilling,

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is in support of the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to fill the second available seat on the Alaska Board of Fish. We make a strong recommendation in her filling a board seat due to her commitment to ensuring Alaska Native voices are heard in important spaces like the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Yukon River Panel, Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees, Federal Consultations, and legislative hearings. She currently serves on the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council and the Minto-Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee. In doing so, she has expanded her knowledge of the complex set of fisheries issues Alaskans face across the state.

Henaayee has remained committed to working with all user groups, reducing regulatory barriers, decriminalizing subsistence practices, understanding others who engage in fisheries management, and encouraging increased public participation. All fishermen should have a reasonable opportunity to comply with regulations. She has supported local and state efforts to formulate regulations that work for the people utilizing the resource, through her work as co-chair on the Minto-Nenana Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

OVK is a strong advocate for subsistence fishing rights. Our community, along with many rural Alaska Native Communities, depend on salmon as a vital percentage of our diets. Nominating Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fish would uphold the State of Alaska's obligation to prioritize subsistence fishing rights. Alaska native communities have sustainability managed our lands, waters, and resources for thousands of years. Henaayee is not only committed to protecting subsistence fishing rights, but she also works with all stakeholders to fully evaluate proposals, reach mutual understandings and ensure Alaska's fisheries are managed sustainably. She always has and always will move forward with the best interest of all future Alaskans. It would be in the best interest of our people to have Henaayee on the Alaska Board of Fish.

Gunalcheesh,

Joel Jackson
President