



April 18, 2025

Representative Stutes, Chair  
House Fisheries Committee  
Email: House.Fisheries@akleg.gov

RE: Support for Tom Carpenter for Alaska Board of Fisheries appointment

Dear Chair Stutes and Committee members:

The Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) supports Tom Carpenter for reappointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board). For over a century PSPA has represented seafood processors and their investment in coastal Alaska. The seafood processing community covers all regions of Alaska, all vessel sizes and gear types. The seafood sector directly employs more workers than any other private sector industry in Alaska and is the largest private sector investor in coastal communities across Alaska. The health of Alaska's coastal communities, transportation and support sectors, fishermen, and the processing sector are inextricably aligned - we are socially and economically dependent on each other and the same sustainable public resource.

Appointments to the Board are critical in that their decisions affect a broad cross-section of Alaskans, businesses, and communities, all of which are reliant on Alaska's fish resources being well-managed for the long-term. Seven members are tasked with representing four distinct management regions, sport, personal use, subsistence, and commercial harvesters and processors, and hundreds of State fisheries. We thus appreciate the careful consideration given to these appointments by the legislature.

Tom Carpenter is a long-time Cordova resident and had many years of experience with advisory committees across southcentral including Copper River and Prince William Sound, prior to serving on the Board. He has proven a very valuable Board member, given his experience and understanding of process, as well as his ability to work with a diverse group of stakeholders with diverse perspectives. He works productively with other Board members and is well respected and well qualified. He has shown logical and practical decision-making, with appropriate deference to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game when it comes to science and management expertise.

Tom is also the only member on the current Board living in a commercial fishing community off the road system. Given the hundreds of commercial fisheries under the authority of the Board, we think it is imperative to retain someone who lives in a commercial fishing community in coastal Alaska, has proven they are prepared and productive at each meeting, and is willing to do the demanding and difficult job the Board requires. He has extensive experience around the State and in the state fisheries and regions for which the Board is responsible for regulating. Tom has also continued to engage in open and

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transparent dialog with the public and a genuine interest in finding common ground and resolving conflicts and issues in a manner consistent with the best available science.

Overall, we strongly support Tom Carpenter and ask you to reappoint him to the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Decker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julie Decker  
President, PSPA  
Wrangell AK