



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Governor Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Jordan Shilling
Director Alaska Boards and Commissions
550 W 7th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 19, 2025

RE: Applicant for Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor,

On behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Doyon, Limited, we write to express our strong support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, Olivia brings a critical perspective rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Interior and Arctic Alaska's Indigenous communities.

The TCC and Doyon region covers 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska and the rural villages located along the 1,400 miles of the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and their tributaries. Our beneficiaries and shareholders come from 37 federally recognized Tribes, all of whom rely on Alaska's fisheries for food security, cultural continuity, and economic stability.

The decline of salmon and other critical fish species has had devastating impacts on the people and communities in our region. Ms. Irwin, with her deep knowledge of the Yukon River fisheries and generations of firsthand experience, understands these challenges intimately. She has witnessed the effects of declining fish populations and knows what is at stake for the people who depend on them.

Her leadership, education, commitment to traditional ways of life, and practical knowledge of fisheries management will bring much-needed representation to the Board. Olivia would bring a unique voice to critical decision-making processes of the Board, helping to shape policies that support sustainability while addressing the needs of subsistence fishers.

At a time when Alaska's fisheries face unprecedented environmental and management challenges, it is essential that the Board includes representatives who understand the realities faced by rural

and Tribal communities. Olivia's insight will help balance conservation efforts with the needs of those who have sustainably stewarded these resources for generations.

We strongly urge you to appoint Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Her voice is essential in shaping policies that will sustain Alaska's fisheries for future generations.

Sincerely,



Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference



Aaron Schutt
CEO
Doyon, Limited