

March 28, 2025

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

Jordon Shilling  
Office of the Governor  
Director of Alaska Boards and Commissions  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Subject: Letter of Support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's Nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries**

Dear Governor Dunleavy:

The Fairbanks Native Association Board of Directors is writing to express our support for the nomination of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. As an Inupiaq and Koyukon tribal member from Nenana, Ms. Irwin brings an invaluable perspective, deeply rooted in the subsistence traditions and cultural heritage of Alaska's indigenous communities.

Weith generations of knowledge and lived experience in the Yukon River region, she understands firsthand the importance of protecting Alaska's fisheries – not only for their ecological sustainability, but also for the survival of the communities that depend on them. Her leadership, commitment to traditional ways of life, and firsthand knowledge of fisheries management will bring essential representation to the Board, ensuring that indigenous voices are included in critical decision-making processes.

Alaska's fisheries are at a turning point, facing significant environmental and management challenges. It is imperative that the Board reflects the diverse interests of all who rely on these resources. Ms. Irwin's expertise, dedication, and cultural insight will provide a much-needed perspective to help balance conservation efforts with the needs of subsistence fishers and rural communities.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon McConnell  
Chair  
Fairbanks Native Association  
Board of Directors