



KAWERAK, INC.

REPRESENTING
Brevig Mission
Sitaisaq
Council
Akauchak
Diomede
Injaliq
Elim
Neviarcuarluaq
Gambell
Sivuqaq
Golovin
Chinik
King Island
Ugiuvak
Koyuk
Kuuyuk
Mary's Igloo
Iglaaruk
Nome Eskimo
Sitnasuami Inuit
Savoonga
Sivungaq
Shaktoolik
Saktuliq
Shishmaref
Kigiqtaq
Solomon
Anjuutaq
St. Michael
Taciq
Stebbins
Tapraq
Teller
Tupqaqruk
Unalakleet
Uqalaqtiq
Wales
Kinjigin
White Mountain
Natchigvik

March 26, 2025

From: Melanie Bahnke, President
Kawerak, Inc.

To: Governor Mike Dunleavy *and*
Jordan Shilling
Office of the Governor
Director, Alaska Boards and Commissions
Sent via email to: jordan.shilling@alaska.gov

Re: Olivia Henaayee Irwin nomination to Board of Fisheries

Governor Dunleavy and Director Shilling,

Kawerak is writing to express our support for Olivia Henaayee Irwin's nomination to the Board of Fisheries.

Kawerak has had the pleasure of working with Ms. Irwin most directly with regard to her work as the Policy Coordinator for the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA). In that work we have seen Ms. Irwin take an active role in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. This work has included policy analysis, active participation via testimony, and public engagement, demonstrating Ms. Irwin's ability to undertake technical and public-facing tasks in the interest of Alaska's fisheries. We have also seen Ms. Irwin's efforts facilitating the Yukon River Symposium, which helped bring together fisheries experts to discuss key science and policy issues.

Even as an early career expert, Ms. Irwin has already displayed not only the type of energy and passion that would make her well-suited for the Board of Fisheries, but also an admirable breadth of experience in fisheries issues. She is already engaged in numerous technical, policy, and management arenas, showing a diversity of knowledge as well as an eagerness to learn about the complex issues related to Alaska's fisheries. She is passionate about working with communities and youth, and for the sustainability of Alaska's fisheries, key values and qualities which should be close to the heart of someone entering public service related to this facet of natural resource management for the benefit of current and future generations of Alaskans.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Kawerak's support for Ms. Irwin's nomination to the Board of Fisheries. We feel she would be an asset to the Board and, in that role, to the communities and fisheries of the State.

Sincerely,
KAWERAK, INC.

Darlene Trigg on behalf of Melanie Bahnke
Melanie Bahnke, President

KAWERAK, INC.

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Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.