

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

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

I am writing to offer my strong and full support for the confirmation of Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As someone who has had the honor of serving on this Board and spending over 50 years working on the Yukon River, I can say with certainty that Olivia represents the kind of leadership Alaska needs right now. She is an Iñupiaq and Koyukon Tribal member from Nenana, with deep generational ties to the Interior and a strong commitment to the subsistence traditions and food security that are vital to so many Alaskans.

Olivia brings more than just knowledge—she brings lived experience. Her upbringing and life in Alaska's interior give her an authentic understanding of how fisheries decisions affect rural communities, Indigenous families, and traditional ways of life. At the same time, she is highly educated and actively involved in fisheries policy and management work, offering both practical and academic strength to the Board.

With Alaska's fisheries facing serious challenges, especially in regions like the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, it's critical that the Board reflect the voices of those who live with the impacts of its decisions. Olivia's leadership and perspective will be an asset in ensuring that decisions are not only scientifically sound but culturally informed and equitable.

I am stepping down from my position this spring, and I can think of no one better to carry the torch forward. I strongly urge you to confirm Olivia Henaayee Irwin to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. She has the trust of her community and wide support all over the interior and the capability to serve the entire state with integrity and vision.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stan Zuray

Former Member, Alaska Board of Fisheries
Yukon River Region