

April 5, 2009

Representative Bryce Edgmon

Chairman, Special Committee on Fisheries

State Capitol

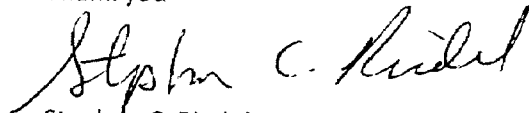
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Edgmon

I am writing to support the appointment of Brent Johnson to the Board of Fisheries. I have been involved in five Board meetings for Area E and know firsthand how important it is to have knowledgeable people sitting on the Board. During the last cycle, I submitted a proposal to change the technical specifications on purse seines that would improve the quality of the harvest and increase the safety of operations. It was very difficult for Board members who had no experience with fishing equipment to understand what we were trying to accomplish. We need to have people on the Board of Fisheries who have a fundamental understanding of how these fisheries work.

I have heard that some of the Kenai sports fishermen are expressing concern over the impact of Mr. Johnson's appointment on the allocation between users. As an active Cook Inlet set netter, Mr Johnson would not be able to deliberate or vote on any proposals that affect Cook Inlet. I would also like to point out that at the last Board meeting dealing Prince William Sound and the Copper River there were no significant changes to the allocation between any of the competing user groups.

Thank you



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