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March 27, 2011

Representative Steve Thompson, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Alaska Board of Fisheries Appointments – Susan Jeffrey

Representative Thompson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Sue Jeffrey to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I have known Sue for many years, first in her capacity as a reporter for the local newspaper, and then in her capacity as a member of the Kodiak Island Borough Assembly.

Sue has a background that will be highly beneficial to the board process. Her level of exposure to the various fishing interests in the state is pretty impressive. You may not be aware, but Kodiak is the most diversified fishing fleet in Alaska, with over 30 fisheries conducted by residents of our community. Our fishermen fish in virtually every commercial fishery in the entire state, including most salmon and herring regions. Additionally, Kodiak is an important port for the sport and personal use fisheries for salmon, halibut and other species. We have a healthy and thriving sport fish charter industry.

With Sue's work on the Assembly, along with her involvement in our local fisheries advisory task force, she has been engaged in a variety of fishery issues, including that of crab in the Bering Sea, salmon and crab bycatch by federally licensed trawl vessels in the Gulf of Alaska, as well as a full range of issues addressed by the regulatory bodies that manage fish in Alaska.

I've been impressed with Sue's desire to learn as much as possible about a given subject and her ability to grasp complex fishery management policies and be able to understand potential impacts to coastal communities that depend on Alaska's fishery resource. She is also very approachable and willing to listen to all perspectives.

I believe Sue Jeffrey will consider the conservation of the resource as her first priority and will carefully review all issues prior to making a decision. She is a good choice for the Alaska Board of Fisheries and I support her confirmation.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Linda Kozak