



Senate Resources Committee
Senator Giessel, Chair
Alaska Capitol Building, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

6 April 2015

SUPPORT ORVILLE HUNTINGTON & ROBERT RUFFNER, BOARD OF FISHERIES APPOINTMENT

Dear Madam Chair,

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is a commercial fishing gear group comprised of more than 150 paying skipper and crew memberships, as well as over 75 paying business members. SEAS represents the interests of roughly 1,500 fishermen in the S01A fishery as well as their families and communities throughout SE Alaska and beyond.

As a group committed to the protection of the resource which provides our means of income, SEAS supports Governor Walker's re-appointment of Orville Huntington and appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries (BOF). The State of Alaska needs highly competent, focused, and intelligent individuals on the Board, and based on their scientific education and involvement on varied fishery boards, both Huntington and Ruffner will serve the BOF very well.

Orville Huntington brings a valued perspective and provides respected input to the Board of Fisheries, especially on subsistence issues. As a lifelong Alaskan from Huslia, Mr. Huntington has demonstrated a commitment to conserving our fishery resource and we admire his dedication to ensuring the viability of our renewable resource and the varied manners of harvesting our fish. With a degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and his service on the Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Native Science Commission, he understands the importance of science-based decision making, a much needed quality for Alaska's BOF members.

Southeast Alaska Seiners Association
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Robert Ruffner also has a solid background in science and his service on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission has provided him with an intricate knowledge of fisheries issues so important to our state. Mr. Ruffner has a proven track record of working with varied stakeholders; a prized perspective and approach for work with the Board of Fish, which we all know can, at certain times, be highly contentious. His experience and leadership with the Kenai Watershed Forum is a striking example of dedication to scientific research, the significance of habitat preservation, and using his analytical skills to move forward for the good of the resource and those who harvest the resources. With such a solid background, we are confident that Mr. Ruffner will excel in this new role on the Board of Fisheries.

We *need* well qualified individuals on the Board of Fisheries, no matter where they come from in our great state of Alaska. And that is why we support Orville Huntington's re-appointment and Robert Ruffner's appointment to the Board of Fisheries and encourage you to do all you can to support these appointments as well.

Sincerely,

Dan Castle
President, SEAS