

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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28 March 2015

Dear Governor Walker, et al.

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation adds its voice to those in support of Robert Ruffner's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

As you know, the Bristol Bay region is highly dependent on the careful management of Alaska's fisheries resources. While commercial fishing is generally seen as the cornerstone of our cash economy, the sustainability of subsistence and sport fish resources are equally important to the health and welfare of the people of Southwest Alaska. Subsistence harvesting is of course a centuries old tradition in the region, and for several years now our organization has sponsored a fly fishing academy to train young people for careers as sport fishing guides.

Mr. Ruffner's professional experience, education and his track record on resource issues speak well of his credentials for wise stewardship of fisheries resources on which all Alaskans depend, and to the balance his confirmation will bring to the Board. We appreciate his nomination and urge his early confirmation by the Alaska Legislature.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NVL', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Norman Van Vactor
CEO / President