



Representative Stutes
Capitol Building, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

April 2015

CONFIRM BEN BROWN & VERNE RUPRIGHT, CFEC COMMISSIONERS

Dear Representative Louise Stutes,

The Southeast Alaska Seiners Association (SEAS) is a commercial fishing gear group with headquarters right here in Juneau. With over 150 paying skipper and crew members and over 75 paying business members, SEAS represents and works for the interests of roughly 1,500 purse seine fishermen throughout Southeast Alaska and beyond.

It is our privilege to urge you to support and confirm Governor Walker's re-appointment of Commissioner Ben Brown and appointment of Commissioner Verne Rupright to the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. Both Brown and Rupright possess the knowledge, skills, and expertise to continue CFEC's great work in preserving our precious fishery resource and serving the hardworking men and women who earn their keep harvesting Alaska's fisheries. As a group which has worked with CFEC on a number of important issues over the years and rely on this important agency for crucial data and service for our small businesses, we can confidently say this State agency has performed exceptionally well and we want that to continue under their leadership.

Commissioner Brown has been with CFEC for a number of years now and has been a youthful and personable addition to the Commission. With not simply a background in scholastic law, but time on the ground and in the trenches of maritime and fisheries law, Commissioner Brown's experience enables him to address both the realities of the decisions he

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helps make for *people*, not just businesses or corporations, as well as the intricate workings of our State's special limited entry system. Our positive interaction with Commissioner Brown and observation of his work with and for others in our common industry has led us to enthusiastically support his re-appointment.

Likewise, the Southeast Alaska Seiners Association wholeheartedly supports the Governor's appointment of Commissioner Rupright. Though obviously newer to the position, Commissioner Rupright has wasted no time in jumping in to tackle head on the issues and important matters concerning the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission. With on-the-job leadership experience and years of managing personnel, Commissioner Rupright is just the person to help lead the very capable public servants within the agency. Yet, in addition to his strengths with organizational management and project planning, his years of practicing law provide the backdrop for competent and deliberate decisions; decisions which impact jobs, livelihoods, and, indeed, whole communities. We need outstanding individuals protecting the \$1.5 billion value of the limited entry permits and the system itself; for their sound and well-reasoned decisions reflect the pre-eminent aspect of the quasi-judicial function of the 3 CFEC Commissioners.

CFEC was set up to help conserve and stabilize the resource and SEAS is committed to helping conserve and strengthen the great work of CFEC. And in so doing, we are happy to endorse the appointment of Commissioner Rupright and re-appointment of Commissioner Brown and hope you will do all you can to support them both as well.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Thorstenson, Jr.
Executive Director, SEAS

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