

**From:** [Clinton Andrews](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Subject:** Abe Williams nomination  
**Date:** Sunday, September 06, 2020 4:35:24 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I have personally know Abe Williams both as a fisherman and a friend for over 25 years. Abe cares about the Bristol bay region and the fishery. The rules and regulations the board of fish vote on are not a conflict with any of Abe's other interests. I support Abe's nomination to the board of fish knowing that Abe's votes would always benefit the fisherman and the fishery.

Thanks

Clinton t Andrews. Permit holder and boat owner Bristol bay.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Buck Gibbons](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Subject:** Mr. Abe Williams letter of support  
**Date:** Thursday, August 27, 2020 4:23:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Mr. Abe Williams Alaska BOF.docx](#)

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Dear Sir or Madame,

Please find the attached letter of support for the confirmation of Mr. Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

If I can offer any additional insights, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Warren "Buck" Gibbons  
Bellingham, WA

8.27.20

Via Electronic Mail  
Re: Mr. Abe Williams BOF appointment

The Honorable Louise Stutes  
Alaska State Legislature  
House Fisheries Committee  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

As a fierce opponent of the Pebble Mine Project, I was relieved to learn of the recent developments from the Trump administration that elevated the environmental bar for Northern Dynasty. As we all catch our collective breath, it leaves a moment to comment on the appointment / confirmation of Mr. Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Having served two terms, in many capacities on the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, I had an opportunity to work alongside Mr. Williams who also served as a director and President of the organization. In spite of the fever pitch that the Pebble Project presented to us all during that period, Mr. Williams was professional in disclosing his conflicts and did not need any prodding to leave the room when Pebble Mine issues were on the agenda.

On either side of that conflict, Mr. Williams did a wonderful job of collaborating with all of us – sometimes dragging a few of us – to projects that definitely improved the value and marketability of Bristol Bay sockeye. His institutional knowledge of the fishery and practicality of what works was a resource that we all relied upon and valued.

As a respected legislator, I am sure that there are issues of division between you and your colleagues that bog down your processes. Yet the essence of leadership is to work around them, to find consensus and to move the ball down the field. You will find that Mr. Williams has just that collaborative capacity and will “give more than he will get” in his service to the Board of Fisheries. Moreover, the state of Alaska will be better off for it.

Yours in good fishing,

Warren “Buck” Gibbons  
F/V West Point  
Bellingham, WA

**From:** [Dale Pedersen](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Cc:** [Senate Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Abe Williams confirmation  
**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 5:08:51 PM

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Hello, my name is Dale Pedersen and I am writing to you asking for your support in confirming Abe Williams to the board of fish. Thank you.

Dale Pedersen  
907-229-6919  
Sent from my iPa

**From:** [Michael Caputo](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#); [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** I support the nomination of Abe Williams  
**Date:** Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:31:04 PM

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My name is Mike Caputo, I am representing myself – from Boston, MA, and I support the nomination of Abe Williams.

On Pebble: I believe there is a lot of misinformation about this project. Be known that groups such as UTBB and BBEDC have been propagating misinformation about this project for many years with the goal of bankrupting this project (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55319e94e4b02842e0615731/t/5c1a8de8352f536c6718775c/1545244147340/Pebble2019Needs.pdf>). They use false and outdated information, often painting a picture of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment’s findings, which were based on hypothetical mining scenarios handpicked by the previous Administration to deny Pebble from being validated through the NEPA process, and not the findings of the EIS – which is the first time a specific mine plan has been analyzed in NEPA. I believe the only conflict of interest here is the public sway that these groups have. Even on the hearing today some of the representatives have repeated these falsities in their comments. The Corps has opined that “Impacts to Bristol Bay Salmon are not expected to be measurable” Page 4.24-47 – layman = no “unacceptable adverse effects” to salmon populations or the health of Bristol Bay or Cook Inlet fisheries. That is what the science tells us. Please note to understand the difference between mitigation impact (mitigating mine site footprint) and mine life impact (.The project "would not be expected to have a measurable effect on fish numbers and result in long-term changes to the health of the commercial fisheries in Bristol Bay," the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wrote in a July environmental assessment.).

On Opposition: The form letters are generated by the same groups that spread misinformation about Pebble - UTBB, Save Bristol Bay, BBEDC, Trout Unlimited, NRDC etc. This has tainted public opinion. Using quotes like “majority of Alaskans are against” are completely unfounded. That is based on a polling by the very same groups that polled 500 Bristol Bay residents and made misleading accusations to sway the poll opinion ([https://stoppebbleminenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BBDF\\_PollingMemo.pdf](https://stoppebbleminenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/BBDF_PollingMemo.pdf)). The opposition groups have a stranglehold in anything Pebble and work to politicize it as much as possible. The testimony on this very hearing, having Rep. Huffman defund the Corps from issuing a permit through two poison pills – there are so many examples of it I hope the chair can see that. It is concerning to see the politicization and that representatives are using incorrect information about this project, information that these groups create in the name of fear (<https://transportation.house.gov/news/press-releases/huffman-defazio-urge-epa-administrator-to-protect-bristol-bay-from-pebble-mine>).

On Permits: It is clear that Alaska’s fisheries are becoming outside owned. Taking the above into consideration, it is concerning that many of the outside interests swaying public opinion on both Pebble and Abe – benefit from Alaska fisheries. “Of the 6.4 billion pounds of seafood harvested in Alaska in 2017, UFA’s 2018 Alaska Commercial Fishing and Seafood Processing report lists 4.6 billion pounds – almost two-thirds – harvested by permit holders from Washington, Oregon or California.” (<https://mustreadalaska.com/the-last-colony-outside-fishing-interests/>) (<https://www.alaskapeninsulacorp.com/commentary-bristol-bays-loss-of-fishery-permits-significant/>). Many of the roadblocks Pebble has faced, misinformation, and public opinion is generated by Representatives of these states. I appreciate Mr. Williams input on the topic.

On Abe: There is no better man for the job. His role with Pebble is to ensure the continued success of the fisheries and that the development of the project is in line with that view. Mr. Williams brings a unique perspective to the table that I do not see as a conflict of interest – there is no decision making that impacts Pebble in this role (if there is he can recuse). His perspective is one that will benefit the fishing community and his experience more than qualifies him for the job.

In closing, I support Abe Williams nomination.  
Thank you,

Michael Caputo

**From:** [Pete Caruso](#)  
**To:** [House Fisheries](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Abe Williams  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 02, 2020 2:10:22 PM

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**From:** Pete Caruso  
**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 1:38:43 PM  
**To:** sres@akleg.gov <sres@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Abe Williams

First, thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. My name is Peter Caruso and I presently live in the Bristol Bay Borough and have lived there for the past 42 years. I retired from the Bristol Bay Borough school district as the maintenance director and have actively participated in the Bristol Bay commercial fishing industry since 1979. I've known Abe since he was an elementary student up till present day. I believe Abe would represent the entire Bristol Bay fisheries with a clear and an unbiased opinion. He has truly invested himself in the industry both monetary and personally to try to bring the fishery into the 21st century. Abe has a way about him to be able to see the whole picture for the subsistence users, drift fleet, the setnet fleet, the processors, and the sport fishermen, through forward thinking and listening to all facets of the industry. Abe is a fact finder and can base his decisions on his experience and share his knowledge of the industry with the other board members to make good solid decisions. We all wear many different kinds of hats and some people think Abe might sway towards pebble mine but I know him well enough that he would remove that hat and offer good information for the entire Bristol Bay Fisheries. For the record I am not for the pebble mine and that is the confidence I have in Abe Williams making decisions for us. Abe is an entrepreneur, has a sincere, witty and comical personality that I believe all boards need. To put it plainly he is a people's person with an open mind. You won't be disappointed to have Abe Williams on the board of fish. A good family man and a great custodian of our fisheries and our future and the ability to listen and work with people to make hard and sensible decisions.

Sincerely, Pete Caruso

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**From:** [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)  
**To:** [Matt Gruening](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Support for Abe Williams appointment  
**Date:** Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:50:05 AM

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**From:** angasan1@gci.net <angasan1@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:35 AM  
**To:** Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Abe Williams appointment

Dear Representative Stutes- I'm writing in support for the appointment of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fish. I've known Abe for more than 40 years. In that time, I've known Abe to be a proactive business leader and Bristol Bay commercial fisherman. His effort to remain engaged and informed on fisheries management has been integral to the success of our sustainable returns of sockeye to various Bristol Bay watersheds and river systems. Abe will be a valuable asset to the ABOF, and we look forward to his talent on the board as he works to successfully manage Alaska fisheries.

Sincerely,  
Brad Angasan  
Owner, F/V Novarupta