

Office of Governor Michael Dunleavy
3rd Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 11001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Chignik Intertribal Coalition's Letter of Support for the Confirmation of
McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Hon. Dunleavy,

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition wishes to express its support for the confirmation of McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries. The Coalition is comprised of the five federally-recognized tribes in the Chignik area – Chignik Bay, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Ivanof Bay, and Perryville – and works to preserve and advance the economic and social interests of its members. Commercial salmon fishing is the sole economic base of every municipality, most businesses, and a majority of the individuals living and working in the Chignik area. Following the failure of the sockeye run in 2018, the Coalition was created in order to advance Chignik area economic interests and assist individuals amidst the fall-out of the 2018 season.

The Chignik sockeye fishery is an historic fishery, and commercial fishing is an ingrained way of life for generations of people in and around the Chignik area. The Chignik sockeye fishery is wedged in between two larger intercept fisheries – the Kodiak Area fisheries to the East, and South Alaska Peninsula fisheries to the West – that routinely harvest significant numbers of sockeye bound for the Chignik area. Decisions made by the Board of Fisheries about how to best manage these surrounding intercept fisheries are crucially important to the survival of the Chignik sockeye fishery, and the economic and cultural survival of Coalition members.

McKenzie Mitchell has been appointed to begin serving on the Board July 1, 2020. She is an avid sport fisherman and adjunct faculty in the school of management in sport and recreation business with an emphasis in economics. An economist would be a welcome addition to the Board of Fisheries. McKenzie Mitchell appears to have the dedication to work to understand the states many commercial, recreational, subsistence, and personal use fisheries and, therefore, has the makings of a good board member.

The Chignik Intertribal Coalition strongly supports the appointment of McKenzie Mitchell to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,



George Anderson
President, Chignik Intertribal Coalition

Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House