

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Deborah Anderson

REPRESENTING: Self

BILL # or SUBJECT: Board of Fisheries Appointee

COMMITTEE: HFSH **DATE:** 03-12-2020

I am writing in strong opposition to the appointment of John Wood to the Board of Fisheries. After seeing his behavior at the Upper Cook Inlet Board of Fish meeting in February, if that is any indication of his best he has to offer, and his demeanor and principles-we have no room for that on the board or should not allow for that to exists in our state.

Matt Gruening

From: Jeff Fox <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 12:11 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: BoF confirmations

At the most recent BoF meeting in Anchorage covering Cook Inlet KRSA and the Fish and Wildlife Committee from Mat-Su got every proposal they submitted passed, as reported in the Frontiersman. How is that possible, because of Board members like Mr. Wood. You have put the Keystone Cops in charge of a 3-4 billion dollar industry, you shouldn't be surprised that most of that industry may be opposed to these appointments. I'm not sure why you would want 2-3 Board members from the Anchorage, Fairbanks and Mat-Su who know nothing about any fishery other than flipping a gob of eggs in the Susitna or Kenai Rivers. While commercial fishermen are easy to hate the BoF and department shouldn't despise them and should be unbiased in regulating them, which they certainly aren't. For the last 20 years the State has been systematically regulating the commercial industry in Cook Inlet to bankruptcy as evidenced by the housing industry on the Kenai Peninsula where every other house south of Soldotna to Homer is either empty, for sale or both. Have the sport or personal use fisheries benefitted from this mismanagement? Simple answer is no, the same people pushing for the end of commercial fishing now have restricted fisheries in many rivers and the same dissatisfaction as was there in the 1970's and 1980's before any of this mismanagement began. To continue to flood these rivers with too many fish and ignore the biological consequences as the current Board has done will only prolong the recovery of any of these stocks. Here is an article from the Homer News on the BoF meeting which states many of the reasons I am opposed to Mr. Woods appointment. On the positive side at least Mr. Woods is not stupid, like so many of the other Board members.

<https://www.homernews.com/news/seawatch-board-of-fisheries-tips-scale-toward-sport-fishing/>