

The Honorable Josiah Patkotak
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

March 15, 2021

Re: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission
Confirmation of Mr. Melvin Smith

Dear Representative Patkotak:

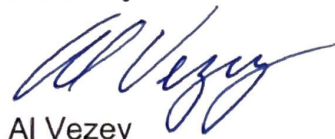
I am writing to express my support and to urge your support of Mr. Melvin Smith to the position of Commissioner for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). I have known Melvin for 14 years and I know he will represent the state well.

Mr. Smith will make an excellent Commissioner of CFEC. Born and raised in False Pass, he comes from a long line of Alaska based commercial fishermen. Twenty (20) years of commercial fishing experience in Alaska, participating in multiple fisheries and areas across the state, give him an in-depth firsthand experience in the Alaska commercial fishing industry. His 20 years of responsible management experience as a corporate executive give him a background in working with committees and boards. He knows the industry and has a long track record of working with people from a Native perspective.

As a shareholder of the Aleut Corporation, Koniag Corporation, and the village corporation of False Pass (Isanotski Corp.), Melvin knows the importance of the role of the CFEC from the perspective of a Native born and raised in a fishing village, versed in the fishing industry, and experienced in the corporate world. There are thousands of Alaska native permit holders across the state. Mr. Smith's experience and background give us confidence this demographic and all commercial fishermen will be well represented by a person well versed in the industry, the people it serves, and the importance of commercial fisheries to all Alaskans.

Mr. Smith is eminently qualified for the position of Commissioner for the State of Alaska's Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Sincerely



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