

**Concerned Area M Fishermen
35717 Walkabout Rd.
Homer, AK 99603**

April 9, 2021

**Representative Geran Tarr, Chair House Fisheries
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801**

**Representative Josiah Patkotak, Chair, House Resources Committee
State Capitol Building Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801**

Re: Oppose confirmation of Carlson Van-Dort to AK. Board of Fisheries

Dear Members of the House Fisheries and House Resource Committees:

Concerned Area M Fishermen (CAMF) is writing to oppose the appointment of Marit Carlson Van Dort to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. CAMF is an organization representing 120 fishing families who fish on the Alaska Peninsula. CAMF has members who live throughout coastal Alaska, and nearly half of our membership lives on the Kenai Peninsula.

CAMF strongly supports representation of the commercial fishing industry on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Currently, out of a seven member Board, there are two members who come from the commercial industry, and only one who is active. Ms. Carlson Van Dort's appointment to the Board continues this lack of representation on the Board.

The public, whether commercial, sport, or subsistence, is best served by Board members that are impartial and can render controversial decisions--as most allocation decisions are--in a fair and open manner. Indeed, in our perspective, Ms. Van-Dort's interest in serving on the Board seems restricted to advancing the interests of commercial fishing stakeholders in Chignik, as attested by her strong families ties to Chignik, and her position as CEO of Far West, the ANSCA corporation representing the Chignik area. We believe this was demonstrated last year in her decisions on proposals in the Kodiak meeting, in which she was very partisan in her decision-making. We believe she will act similarly in her future decisions in the Alaska Peninsula regulatory meeting when they next meet.

The Governor should seek candidates who have the broad interests of the whole public when it comes to resource decisions, and not just a special interest. For these reasons, we believe Ms. Van Dort should not serve a second term on the Board of Fisheries, and should not be confirmed by the legislature.

Sincerely,


Steve Brown, President