



House Fisheries and Resources Committees

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April 9, 2021

Subject: HOUSE JOINT RESOURCES/FISHERIES CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

Dear Members of the House Fisheries and Resources Committees:

We write to express our support for the reappointment of Märit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and the appointment of McKenzie Mitchell to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

We represent the people of Chignik Lagoon and we recognize that our cultural well-being is an integral part of our community health. We know a stable local economy hinges upon reliable access to a healthy fishery.

Our local economy is based on commercial fishing and a subsistence way of life. Unfortunately, our sockeye and Chinook salmon runs have sharply declined since 2017. Local Chinook salmon stocks have failed to meet escapement goals in three of the past four seasons. This is one of our main subsistence resources, having sustained our people for centuries and it is an extremely important harvesting, teaching, and sharing component of our culture. The declining sockeye and Chinook salmon runs in our region means that we have not been able to depend upon these resources to fill our freezers. Without fish in our freezers and money to buy food, tribal members have had to rely on food, including salmon from outside sources. We need a strong voice on the Alaska Board of Fisheries to help protect our fish and our community health and wellbeing. We do not have other options as do other interests opposing us.

During these chronic economic disasters, we look to the Board of Fisheries to make hard decisions to protect the resources we rely on for survival. With a record number of 10 Disaster Declarations in 2020 by Governor Dunleavy, we believe that these three appointees are up to the task of making these critical decisions.

In closing, please move forward the appointment of Märit Carlson-Van Dort, John Wood, and McKenzie Mitchell to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Gregorio", is written over a circular blue ink stamp.

Angela Gregorio  
Operations Manager  
Chignik Lagoon Native Corporation