Senate Resources

Board of Fisheries: Gov Appointee

Letters of Opposition to Marit Carlson Van-Dort

[printed 5.7.21]

Timothy Moore	Dustin Connor	
John Etheridge	Mike Mickelson	
Christopher White	Brenda Norheim	
Ted Crookston	Jeff Farvour	
Kim Hubert	Alan Kapp	
Harlan Bailey	Dvid Polushkin	
Grant Newton	Stephanie O'Brien	
Susan Doherty-SEAS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	7

From:

Timothy Moore <seascapewe@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, April 9, 2021 12:23 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen.

Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson;

Senator.Lara.Reinbold@akleg.gov; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert

Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David

Wilson

Subject:

BOF Confirmation

Dear Senators

I am a sport and commercial fishermen from Homer Alaska. I encourage you not to confirm Marit Carlson Van-Dort as a BOF member. She has shown unbalanced support towards the Sport Fishing political lobbying group and voted in a way that does not support fair balanced decision making.

Thanks for your service in the legislature.

Timothy J Moore PO Box 1646 Homer AK 99603 seascapewe@gmail.com (907)3998031

From: Dustin Connor <cnnrdb@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 9, 2021 11:35 AM To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen.

Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson;

Senator.Lara.Reinbold@akleg.gov; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David

Wilson; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Mike Cronk; Rep. Harriet

Drummond; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Ronald Gillham; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. James Kaufman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Ken McCarty; Rep. Thomas McKay; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Josiah Patkotak; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Laddie Shaw; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sarah Vance;

Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky

Subject: Board of Fish

Attachments: UFA Carlson-Van Dort Opposition .pdf

Dear senators and representatives,

Marit Carlson Van-Dort. Ms. Carlson Van-Dort has proven to be biased against the commercial fishing industry.

At the Upper Cook Inlet meeting in 2020, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort did not provide valid justification for her support of sportfish proposals over comfish. It appeared as though she had come to the meeting with her mind already made up how she was going to vote.

Many commercial fishermen have expressed frustration that she will not engage with them, and when she does engage, she is complacent and appears sympathetic to their concerns, yet votes against them with no justification.

In Kodiak, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort voted strictly for Chignik fishermen that are also shareholders and directors of the Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. of which she is President.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort, with the help of a first cousin that had submitted several proposals to the Board, encouraged her uncle to transfer his Chignik salmon permit a couple of weeks before the Board meeting so that she did not technically have an economic conflict of interest and could vote in favor of her cousin's proposals, hurting Kodiak fishermen.

At the Kodiak meeting, in comments regarding the board's action, she read comments obviously written by a third party and said on the record "we" indicating her and Chignik rather than speaking as a board of fish member.

Ms. Carlson-Van Dort should be replaced with a non-biased, open-minded board member- not a sport advocate pretending to be a commercial fishing supporter.

I have also attached the UAF opposition letter for your convenience. Thank you for your time.

Dustin Connor Petersburg, AK

From:

kach-mor@gci.net

Sent:

Friday, April 16, 2021 2:49 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Talking Points in Opposition to Marit Carlson-Van Dort

Balance of the board is off

With Payton, Wood, and Mitchell representing the sport seats, and Jensen and Williams representing commercial, Godfrey in no official position, and Carlson-Van Dort sitting in the subsistence seat but advocating for sport, the board is unbalanced 4 -sport, 2-com, 1-neutral. The argument is being made by sportfish that Godfrey is commercial, but his voting record shows he is genuinely balanced throughout.

It is Important to Note If Carlson-Van Dort is really in a subsistence seat, neither commercial fish or sport fish would be weighing in on her confirmation. But because she is *not* neutral, sport fishermen are trying hard to keep her and commercial fishermen are opposing her. Even tribal and subsistence harvesters have weighed in in opposition.

She worked for Pebble Mine for five years

Marit Carlson-Van Dort worked for Pebble Mine as their Director of Regional Affairs from 2013-2018. At her 2019 confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Resource Committee, she was asked how working for Pebble would help her use her experiences to better serve the Board of Fisheries. Within her response, Carlson-Van Dort stated "I do remain unconvinced that the development of the proposed mine at Pebble will decimate the Bristol Bay fishery..." She went on to say that she understands there are valid concerns, but to admit she's unconvinced the mine would hurt the fishery shows she is not about protection of the resource.

Alaska commercial fishermen are small family businesses

The opposition of Carlson-Van Dort is not just a Kodiak issue. UFA, a statewide commercial fishing organization voted unanimously to oppose Carlson-Van Dort. After seeing Carlson-Van Dort's main objective was to advocate for the sport sector at the Kodiak, Upper Cook Inlet and Statewide shellfish meetings, commercial fishermen from around the state took note and became concerned they would be next on the chopping block given her consistent anti-commercial voting record. Carlson-Van Dort put small business owners out of business in Homer, Kodiak, and the Upper Cook Inlet. She will do the same in every other commercial fishing region.

Bob Penny and KRSA picked Carlson-Van Dort

When Carlson-Van Dort was appointed in 2019, KRSA and Penny came out in full-support of her appointment. Penny and KRSA only support those they have in their corner. While on the board, Carlson-Van Dort has voted lockstep with KRSA's position. Both KRSA are Penny have been making calls to legislators to keep her on the board. A vote for Carlson-Van Dort is a vote for Bob Penny and KRSA.

What she claims verses voting history

Carlson-Van Dort claims her vote at the Kodiak meeting on the Cape Igvak section was based on conservation issues with the Chignik run. While it is a fact that the Chignik sockeye runs are having serious trouble, the Igvak Management Plan already provided for full escapement and a guaranteed substantial sockeye harvest in Chignik before managers could even consider an opener in the Igvak section, so her vote was entirely allocative and not based on conservation at all.

It's not really about protection and conservation...it's about allocating to her preference
Carlson-Van Dort voted to restrict Kodiak fishermen's harvest opportunities on east bound fish in order to
pass more fish to Cook Inlet. Following this action, at the Upper Cook Inlet meeting, she voted to restrict
fishing opportunity for both the drift and Eastside setnet fisheries in order to pass more fish to the valley. She
then voted to create a new personal use fishery on those fish.

More conflicts

Carlson-Van Dort is the president of Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. In this capacity, she is president of an organization that has Chignik commercial fishermen as members which likely aided her decision to allocate more fish to Chignik fishermen.

JOHN ETHERIDGE 907-723-2987

From: Mike Mickelson <m_mickelson1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 2:47 PM

To: Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen.

Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject: Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Members of the Alaska State Senate,

I encourage you to oppose the appointment of Marit Carlson Van Dort to the Board of fisheries. I believe there are other more qualified individuals to fill this post. I am very concerned about her previous support of the Pebble Mine. In addition, her decisions at the Kodiak Board of Fisheries meetings demonstrate questionable judgement on issues that present a conflict of interest with her ties to Chignik. Thank you for your time,

Mike Mickelson box 1504 Cordova, AK 99574 Subsistence Harvester Commercial Fisherman Sent from my iPhone

From:

Christopher White <chriswht50@gmail.com>

Sent:

Friday, April 23, 2021 4:31 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Honorable gentlemen and ladies-

I'm a commercial fisherman in Alaska—Bristol Bay and longlining halibut—and would like to be on the long list of folks that oppose Carlson Van Dort for the BOF.

Thanks for your consideration.

Chris f/v Vulcan

From:

Sent:

Friday, April 23, 2021 3:34 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Dear Members of the State of Alaska Senate,

I am a commercial fisherman in the State of Alaska. I am writing today to oppose the appointment of Carlson Van Dort to the Board of Fish.

Thank you for listening.

Regards, **Ladd Norheim Brenda Norheim**

Sent from my iPhone

From:

Ted Crookston < tedcrookston@me.com>

Sent:

Friday, April 30, 2021 4:05 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

The BOF is not balanced and is being manipulated.

I have 56 years of commercial fishing history. I urge you to oppose Carlson Van Dort and require the BOF to be balanced by this Dunleavy Administration.

Ted Crookston Commercial Fisherman

From:

jeff farvour <jefarv@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, April 19, 2021 3:46 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Dear Senators.

My name is Jeff Farvour, I live in Sitka and commercial troll and halibut fish for a living. I also participate regularly in and depend on subsistence and personal use fisheries for sustenance. I am writing to strongly oppose the reappointment of Marit Carlson Van Dort to the Board of Fish.

Clearly, Ms. Carlson-Van Dort has the support of sport fish representatives while failing to have supportable representation from commercial sectors AND lacks the legitimacy of a perceived seat as subsistence rep.

That along with her unbalanced voting record and employment history with Pebble, make her an extremely poor candidate for a BoF member much less in a subsistence or commercial capacity.

Sincerely, Jeff Farvour Sitka

From:

logansark22@gmail.com

Sent:

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:15 AM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

Greetings Senators:

I have operated a Bristol Bay Salmon Set for over 40 years and am deeply concerned about the nomination of Carlson Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. We need a balanced Board with proper representation of commercial fishermen, that traditionally included a true representative of the Bristol Bay fisheries. To nominate a Pebble supporter is a grand slap in the face of not only commercial fishermen but the people of Alaska. We don't want Pebble, and we want fair representation of the people of THIS State.

Kim Hubert 907-891-2628

From:

alcapp@aol.com

Sent:

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:15 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

As a 45 year commercial salmon fisherman in Prince William Sound, I oppose the appointment of Marit Carlson-Van Dort to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. This person is taking the subsistence seat of the Board? I don't believe so. The Board of Fish is becoming a political football and the game is getting mean. Tone it down please. Find a more moderate candidate for the Board of Fish.

Sincerely, Alan G. Kapp

From:

harlan bailey <koggiung@hotmail.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:50 PM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

No to Van Dort for all the obvious reasons

From:

David Polushkin <polushkin64@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:49 AM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

My name is David Polushkin.

I have been a commercial fisherman since I was 9 years old, started fishing with my dad in 1975.

I have lived on the Kenai Peninsula from 1970 to 1985, moved to Mat Su Borough in 1985 and live in the wasilla area currently.

I oppose Carlson-Van Dort. After seeing Carlson-Van Dort's main objective was to advocate for the sport sector at the Kodiak, Upper Cook Inlet and Statewide shellfish meetings, commercial fishermen from around the state took note and became concerned they would be next on the chopping block given her consistent anti-commercial voting record. Carlson-Van Dort put small business owners out of business in Homer, Kodiak, and the Upper Cook Inlet. She will do the same in every other commercial fishing region.

Carlson-Van Dort claims her vote at the Kodiak meeting on the Cape Igvak section was based on conservation issues with the Chignik run. While it is a fact that the Chignik sockeye runs are having serious trouble, the Igvak Management Plan already provided for full escapement and a guaranteed substantial sockeye harvest in Chignik before managers could even consider an opener in the Igvak section, so her vote was entirely allocative and not based on conservation at all.

Carlson-Van Dort is the president of Chignik Village Corporation, Far West, Inc. In this capacity, she is president of an organization that has Chignik commercial fishermen as members which likely aided her decision to allocate more fish to Chignik fishermen.

Thank you.

David Polushkin

F/V DELTA

From:

Grant Newton <gnewton@arctic.net>

Sent:

Thursday, April 22, 2021 10:58 AM

To:

Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Roger Holland; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Joshua Revak; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens;

Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. David Wilson

Subject:

Oppose Carlson Van Dort

My name is Grant Newton, resident, fisherman of King Cove and ADFG Advisory Committee member and officer a long time. The commercial fishermen of Area M strongly oppose reappointment of Carlson Van-Dort to Board of Fish. She has consistently voted to allocate fish to her preferences in Cook inlet sport and Chignik without regard to the commercial fishing industry or conservation measures that already exist. Her appointment would gravely turn the vote and philosophy of Alaska Board of Fish into a detriment to our local people, our economy, and the entire state commercial fisheries. We support and echo all the opposition for her reappointment from UFA, CAMF, and other comfish groups. Thank You for consideration, Grant L Newton

From:

Stephen O'Brien <kodiaksob@gmail.com>

Sent:

Monday, April 19, 2021 4:04 PM

To:

Senate Resources

Subject:

oppose nomination of MCVD

To whom it may concern,

I strongly oppose the renomination of Marit Carlsen Van Dort to the Board of Fisheries. With her close ties to the Village of Chignik I feel she is unable to give an unbiased opinion on fisheries management and allocation issues in Alaska.

Especially when dealing with fisheries and regulation that involves the region of Chignik.

Sincerely, Stephen O'Brien



P.O. Box 714
Ward Cove, AK 99928
(907) 220-7630
info@seiners.net www.seiners.net

April 15, 2021

Re: Opposition Märit Carlson-Van Dort Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Representatives,

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) was established as an open process to give user groups an equal opportunity and voice to the decisions that affect the fisheries resources of this great state and the multitude of user groups that rely on them, or simply enjoy them. The process has been touted as the best in the world, and we believe in large that to be true, and hope it continues to be so.

The process relies on the commitment and expectation that everyone is heard and has an opportunity at the boards ear. The outcry you are hearing isn't because people are upset that a ruling was made against one group over another, that is what the process does when needed; it's about the expectation, the oath, and commitment to be unbiassed and impartial. People are upset because they experienced, witnessed, or it was clearly demonstrated that they had no real opportunity to be a part of the decision- making process and bring their side of the story to the table. They were shut out, their views had no value, the decisions had already been made in this board member's mind is the message that was sent loud and clear.

The BOF process only works when board members diligently adhere to being open to all users and develop trust with all the user groups. This trust has been violated; and thus, you are hearing passionate, angry, frustrated testimony to not confirm Ms. Carson-Van Dort. The process depends on trust, the process doesn't work without trust; but trust has to be earned, and you are hearing not only was it not earned, that trust unequivocally was broken.

No one has testified about her ability to serve, digest information or be articulate. The fact that she is intelligent and articulate makes the lack of trust even more compelling; she could have serious negative impact across the entire state on the delicate balance the BOF has always painfully addressed in their behavior at the meeting and during deliberations and through their rulings.

The Legislature has a unique opportunity with this appointee in that there is a demonstrated record. The people who rely on this process, and even a legislator who was at one of the meetings, are telling you that she has violated the trust of her seat. We don't think the importance and necessity of the trust of your constituents is lost on any of you in your role as public servants. Thank you for your service. Your vote to oppose this confirmation is our only voice, please hear our cries and restore the trust in the BOF process that is so vitally important to our livelihoods.

Respectfully,

Susan Doherty

Executive Director SEAS