



North Pacific Maritime, Inc.

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April 21, 2022

To: The Honorable Grier Hopkins, House of Representatives, Chairman House Transportation Committee.

Re: Confirmation hearing April 28, 2022

Dear Representative Hopkins:

Regarding the confirmation hearing before this committee for my appointment to the Alaska Board of Marine Pilots unfortunately I will be on return flight from a business trip out of the County and unable to call in during that time. I am respectfully providing a brief statement about myself for your committee's consideration.

This appointment is to an "Agent" seat on the Board of Marine Pilots (BMP). For those who may not be familiar with the role of a maritime port agent we are the local representative for vessel owners and operators from all over the world, including Cargo ships, container ships, cruise ships as well as government vessels, both U.S. and Foreign. We assist them with all requirements and regulations to enter and depart from Alaskan waters when they are delivering or picking up cargo or passengers and we facilitate any services, supplies, or needs they may have while in Alaska. One of those regulations is marine pilotage where an Alaska State licensed pilot is required on each vessel to guide them safely through our waters.

I have been a port agent in Alaska for 37 years and I have attended almost every pilot board meeting for the past 27 years. I was first appointed to the BMP in 2002 and served two terms through 2010. I was reappointed in 2018 and just completed my third term, so I do understand the regulatory and board process and have a very respectful relationship with all involved. As vice president of our company, I oversee our company offices throughout the State and work closely with all three regional pilotage groups in Alaska and understand the unique logistics of operating in Alaska Ports and waters.

Alaska Statute states: *"The board shall provide for the maintenance of efficient and competent pilotage service on the inland and coastal water of and adjacent to the state to assure the protection of shipping, the safety of human life and property, and the protection of the marine environment."*

The majority of Alaska's resources and supplies come and go via some form of water transportation. We need to keep people and our environment safe but also facilitate efficient and economical commerce which is why the BMP has a balanced seat makeup. I have been an integral part of the BMP's roll in carrying out that mandate for many years and am willing to continue to do so with your support.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Respectfully,



Les Cronk
Vice President
North Pacific Maritime, Inc
ANP Shipping Company
Yacht Services of Alaska