



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 4, 2019

Honorable Michael Dunleavy
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
Attn: gina.ritacco@alaska.gov

RE: Support for Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters.

United Fishermen of Alaska supports Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Mr. Ruffner has proven himself to be an asset to the Board of Fisheries with his impartial and open-minded approach. Mr. Ruffner always comes prepared to board meetings, is open to talking to members of all user groups, and is skilled at building a strong record while following proper policies and procedures.

Mr. Ruffner has an impressive scientific background and knack for public leadership. His longtime experience with the Kenai Watershed Forum and Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership lend him familiarity with the issues that arise in Board of Fisheries work and fisheries management. His scientific studies and personal awards demonstrate that he has a strong dedication to all of the state's different fisheries and habitat. Mr. Ruffner is an avid sport fisherman with regional expertise combined with habitat based background making him an asset on the Board. Mr. Ruffner doesn't consider himself in a designated seat, and UFA greatly respects and appreciates his prioritizing the resources over user groups in decision making.

The Board of Fisheries is well known to be among the most demanding of all volunteer public service appointments in the state. We feel Mr. Ruffner is a highly-qualified applicant and are grateful his willingness re-up for another term.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important appointment, please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Matt Alward
President

Frances H. Leach
Executive Director