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Board Support Section, ADFG
Attention Glenn Haight
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811

January 5, 2015

Re: ADFG Commissioner appointments

The Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA) supports the Governor's nomination of Mr. Sam Cotton to serve as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). ALFA also considers Dr. Roland Maw a qualified applicant and appreciates the willingness of these two candidates to serve in this important role.

Mr. Cotton's resume establishes his qualification for the challenging job of ADFG Commissioner. Mr. Cotton has experience with both the science and politics of resource management. He has the necessary administrative experience to lead this department and the background to lead wisely. Mr. Cotton is committed to sustainable resource management and healthy Alaska communities, priorities that reflect the mission of our Association. During his time on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Mr. Cotton launched a long overdue effort to address and reduce salmon and halibut bycatch, issues that remain pressing priorities of the State and federal government. We have always found Mr. Cotton to be a willing listener, eager to understand the perspectives of his constituents, and ready to develop solutions that protected the resource while enhancing Alaska's access to those resources. In short, ALFA believes the Governor has chosen wisely in nominating Mr. Cotton to serve as ADFG Commissioner.

ALFA staff and members have also worked closely with Dr. Maw for over a decade. Dr. Maw has an impressive academic and professional background in resource management that covers both wildlife and fisheries. For years Dr. Maw has volunteered his resource expertise to strengthening Alaska's fish and wildlife management policy, a service ALFA deeply appreciates. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with Dr. Maw and consider him is a valuable asset to the Walker/Mallot administration.

ALFA is a non-profit organization of hook and line vessel owners and deckhands committed to sustainable fisheries, healthy marine ecosystems and strong coastal communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Behnken".

Linda Behnken