

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

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April 21, 2010

Honorable Gary Locke
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230
Via email: TheSec@doc.gov

RE: SUPPORT JIM HUBBARD FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Dear Secretary Locke,

The Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA) is a diverse group of 100 commercial fishermen and businesses based in Alaska. Our members provide millions of meals to the public annually by participating in a variety of fisheries statewide with our foremost interest being the commercial longline fisheries managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council). PVOA appreciates the opportunity to **support Jim Hubbard for appointment to the Council.**

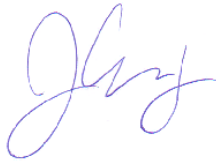
PVOA has had the pleasure of working along side Jim in the Council process on issues such as sablefish, halibut, and cod. Jim's ability to see all sides of an issue will make him an asset in the regulatory process, as has been proven by his sound reputation as a participant on the Research Advisory Board with the International Pacific Halibut Commission. As an active commercial harvester, Jim has a unique view of fisheries management in the State of Alaska. Jim has built his distinctive fishing business on hard work, determination, and sound decision making. The Council benefits from having a variety of backgrounds at the table, and "boots-on-deck" fishermen with fisheries management experience are a rare and valuable resource.

The Council makes decisions that have significant effects on the commercial fishing industry. These effects are widespread and impact both the economy of this state and the health of our coastal communities. Commercial fishing remains Alaska's largest private sector employer and contributes more to the state's economy than any other industry with the exception of oil and gas. We cannot overemphasize the importance of making quality appointments to the Council, such as Jim.

When Council members are selected by the Governor of the State of Alaska, very careful consideration is given to each candidate. Selections are made to create even and balanced representation on the Council. We were delighted to learn that Jim was selected as the Governor's preferred candidate, as Jim will be the first Council member hailing from the fishing port of Seward, Alaska, number 22 in the nation for millions of pounds landed, and number 33 in the nation for dollar value landings.

We feel that Jim will make an excellent Council member and will prove himself as a sound voice for sustainable fisheries management in the State of Alaska. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If we can provide further information or answer any questions as you make this important decision, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Julianne Curry
Executive Director

CC: Alaska Congressional Delegation
Senator Mark Begich
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Representative Don Young