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Governor Sean Parnell

STATE OF ALASKA

April 3, 2014

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 410
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Alan Austerman
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Eric Feige
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable David Guttenberg
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Bob Herron
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Sam Kito III
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 426
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Cathy Muñoz
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Benjamin Nageak
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 428
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Peggy Wilson
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the Bush Caucus,

Thank you for your letter of March 11 regarding Community Fishing Associations (CFAs) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) upcoming meeting in Anchorage, April 9-14.

Your letter requested that I urge the Council to add discussion of CFAs to its agenda and "instruct...Alaskan representatives on the NPFMC to include Community Fishing Associations among the program components to be analyzed for consideration." While I as Governor do appoint Alaska's Council members, I do not direct their actions as Council members. Members are

appointed to independently represent the views of Alaskan constituents, rather than me, on the Council. As such, they are always open to your input and that of your constituents, and I urge you to participate in the Council process and share with your constituents that they should also feel free to do so, especially as the Council prepares to take up changes in trawl fishery management at its April meeting.

As you may already be aware, the Council advanced a framework for a new Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management program structure in October 2013, and will review a discussion paper on the proposed program design at the upcoming meeting, which is available at <http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/bycatch/GOAtrawlBycMgt0414.pdf>. The program includes consolidation limits and regional delivery requirements as some of the measures to mitigate potential impacts to fisheries-dependent communities. At the same time the October 2013 motion was passed, Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Cora Campbell also suggested, and the Council subsequently convened, a workshop to examine community-driven responses to groundfish catch share programs in other regions of the nation. Department staff has been reviewing such programs through the lens of differences and similarities to Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. I encourage you to give full consideration to the community protection measures that are already before the Council and to the objectives guiding the Council's work on the bycatch program. As Gulf of Alaska communities dependent on the trawl groundfish fisheries identify additional specific program elements they propose administering to meet Council objectives, I expect all Alaska Council members will give them serious consideration.

Finally, I encourage you to share your concerns and ideas with Commissioner Campbell, who participates directly on the Council and can speak more fully to these issues. I appreciate hearing from you on this important issue. We are eager to learn what the groundfish-dependent communities of Kodiak, King Cove, and Sand Point suggest as effective measures to meet their objectives for community stability.

Regards,



Sean Parnell
Governor

cc: The Honorable Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
Eric Olson, Chairman, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Chris Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
Heather Brakes, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor
Stefanie Moreland, Special Assistant, Office of the Governor
Nicole Kimball, Federal Fisheries Coordinator, Department of Fish and Game