

  
PSPA  
PACIFIC SEAFOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
Est. 1914

January 4, 2017

Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

This letter is being sent on behalf of the member companies of the Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA) in support of Mr. Chris Oliver's candidacy to be the new Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. We are joining the At-sea Processors Association, Freezer Longline Coalition, Groundfish Forum, and United Catcher Boats in offering this support. These organizations represent companies engaged in the harvesting, processing, marketing and distribution of commercial U.S. seafood products, principally from federally managed Alaska and West Coast fisheries. The fisheries in which our member companies participate account for over half of all U.S. seafood landed annually and approximately two-thirds of the Nation's seafood exports.

PSPA and our member firms have worked closely with Mr. Oliver during his time as Executive Director of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The North Pacific is widely recognized as having the most sustainably managed and productive fisheries in the Nation, and Mr. Oliver has helped to direct both the development of these fisheries and the management process that ensures their sustainability. Mr. Oliver also has a solid understanding of fishery management issues elsewhere in the country. Because of his work with the leaders of the eight regional fishery management councils through the Council Coordination Committee (CCC), he is well regarded within this group. His involvement in the CCC has also given Mr. Oliver an understanding of the key issues in other regions as the CCC pushed back against questionable NOAA policy initiatives that needlessly restrict the operations of commercial seafood companies.

Our organization and the fishing industry in general support Mr. Oliver because he looks for the most practical solutions when solving problems in an industry which already operates under an extremely burdensome regulatory process. Mr. Oliver has worked cooperatively with the agency but has also consistently challenged them to make fishery management more responsive to industry concerns. He has also consistently argued for a more decentralized approach to federal fisheries management by seeking delegation of authorities from Washington DC to the regional offices of NMFS and the regional Councils. This is consistent with the original intent of Congress and makes sense because each region is different and fishery management cannot function under a one-size-fits-all system.

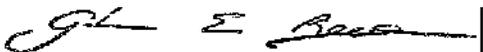
Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
January 4, 2017  
Page 2.

PSPA supports, and we know Mr. Oliver supports, ensuring the health of our marine resources and the sustainability of our fisheries as the primary goal of our federal management system. We believe Mr. Oliver has the skills necessary to lead the agency as it focuses on its core science and management missions while allowing the Councils to use their regional expertise to solve regional issues.

Mr. Oliver also has extensive experience in the international fisheries arena, including his role as a delegate to the U.S./Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee. This committee develops bilateral agreements on the international boundary line along with cooperative research and high-seas enforcement agreements essential to the fisheries of the Bering Sea. Lastly, Mr. Oliver is originally from Texas and is very familiar with the commercial and recreational management issues in the Gulf of Mexico. This knowledge would be a tremendous asset should he become head of NOAA Fisheries. He is also an avid sport fisherman and hunter and so has a deep personal commitment to conservation and proper management of natural resources.

While the North Pacific Council would certainly miss his expertise, his decades-long experience in the federal fisheries arena makes him an ideal candidate to lead NOAA Fisheries and to preserve both our valuable marine resources and the industries that rely on them. We hope that you will join us in expressing your support for Mr. Oliver as the new Administration reviews candidates for this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn E. Reed", followed by a vertical line.

Glenn E. Reed, President  
Pacific Seafood Processors Association