



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

April 23, 2024

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Email to: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov

Re: North Pacific Fishery Management Council Nomination of Becca Robbins-Gisclair

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

It has come to our attention that Washington Governor Jay Inslee has nominated Becca Robbins-Gisclair for one of Washington State's seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The City of Saint Paul (the City), which I lead as Mayor, strongly endorses Ms. Gisclair's appointment.

Saint Paul is a primarily Unangan/Aleut community of approximately 400 residents that is located in the Pribilof Islands in the central Bering Sea. As a result, our community is almost entirely dependent on the surrounding Bering Sea fisheries and other marine resources for its survival, and is very much impacted by the fisheries management decisions of the NPFMC. More importantly, in recent years the fisheries and resources we depend on such as crab, halibut, and fur seals have been harmed by the effects of climate change. The declines and closures of some of these fisheries have produced much hardship on Saint Paul and other underserved Bering Sea communities and tribes.

The City has had the opportunity to work with Ms. Robbins-Gisclair over several years in her capacities as a member of the NPFMC's Advisory Panel, as a representative of the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association and the Alaska Marine Conservation Council, and finally as Senior Director of Arctic Programs for the Ocean Conservancy. In our experience, Ms. Robbins-Gisclair has been fair, accessible, effective, and dedicated in her service. She would also bring a much-needed community and conservation perspective to the NPFMC given her over two decades of experience advocating for sustainable and equitable fisheries, healthy fishing communities and Tribal rights before this body.

In this era of climate change, management policies and responses that focus on developing climate resiliency and the sustainable use and conservation of our stressed fishery resources, is required. Special attention must be given to Alaska Native communities such as Saint Paul, whose ability to

adapt and diversify, while preserving their unique cultures, is limited. To ensure outcomes that are equitable and in compliance with all of the Magnuson-Stevens Act's national standards, processes that incorporate ecosystem, local-traditional-subsistence knowledge, and community engagement into the NPFMC's science-based approach are needed.

Ms. Robbins-Gisclair's deep knowledge of the issues facing the North Pacific and her proven commitment to the long-term sustainability of the North Pacific marine ecosystem and the communities that rely on it will, therefore, be an invaluable addition to the NPFMC.

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, therefore, I highly recommend Ms. Robbins-Gisclair's appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacob Mercurief". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jacob Mercurief, Mayor
City of Saint Paul, Alaska

cc: Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, janet.coit@noaa.gov
Senator Lisa Murkowski, attn: Matthew Robinson, matthew_robinson@murkowski.senate.gov
Senator Dan Sullivan, attn: Carina Nichols, carina_nichols@sullivan.senate.gov
Senator Cantwell, attn: Nicole Teutschel, nicole_teutschel@commerce.senate.gov,
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