



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)

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January 8, 2015

Alaska Joint Board of Fisheries and Game
Attn: Glenn Haight, Alaska BOF Executive Director

Dear Mr Haight:

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) would like to express its support of the appointment of Sam Cotten as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

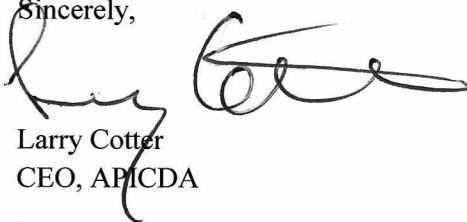
APICDA is one of six community development quota organizations in Alaska whose mission is to build strong fisheries based economies and alleviate poverty by empowering the residents of western Alaska to participate in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) ground-fish, halibut and crab fisheries.

We have worked with Mr. Cotten on fisheries related issues before the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the Board of Fish. While not always fully aligned in our positions, we believe that he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our fisheries dependent rural communities and to the sustainability of state resources. His vast experience in fisheries forums will allow him to easily transition into dealing with forthcoming complex issues facing federal and state fisheries management in Alaska. Since assuming his role as interim Commissioner in October, his experience has already been made apparent in his leadership with addressing halibut bycatch issues in the Bering Sea.

We believe that Mr. Cotten is the best qualified candidate for the role of Commissioner and that he will provide informed, transparent and fair representation for the state.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Larry Cotter
CEO, APICDA