



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

November 15, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

The Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is the largest federally recognized tribe in Alaska, representing 37,000 tribal citizens in communities stretching over 43,000 square miles across the Southeast Alaska Panhandle. This region encompasses a 525-mile strip of coastline and productive interior waterways, bordered by Canada on the north, south, and east, with the Gulf of Alaska on the west. Tlingit and Haida peoples have stewarded our traditional lands from Southeast Alaska into the Yukon and British Columbia since time immemorial and continue doing so as a sovereign nation; Tlingit & Haida maintains a government-to-government relationship with the United States and is a regional coordinator for collaborative stewardship projects with tribes, government entities, non-profits, and other groups.

On behalf of Tlingit & Haida's Executive Council and our tribal citizens, it is with great honor I write to express Tlingit & Haida's full support of the nomination made by Tanana Chiefs Conference for Ms. Eva Burke to serve as the designated Alaska Native Tribal seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Advisory Panel (AP).

Ms. Burke is deeply connected to her culture through salmon. As a subsistence and commercial fishermen, she has not only been able to provide for herself and her community, but she has also passed on many of these traditional fishing practices to younger generations. Through her roles on both federal and state fisheries-related councils, and through her work as a Community Engagement Specialist and an Advisor, Ms. Burke has served Alaska and Alaska Native communities across the state.

Alaska's fisheries are facing unprecedented changes – and as a result, so, too, are our communities; with this understanding, the management of our fisheries requires a wholistic and balanced approach, and we are committed to working towards equity for Alaska Native representation throughout varying governing bodies. As you're aware, Tlingit & Haida fully supports additional Alaska Native seats on the AP as well as the NPFMC. In the meantime, Tlingit & Haida is eager to support the nomination of Ms. Eva Burke to serve *all Alaskans* as an advisor to the NPFMC.

Gunalchéesh/ Háw'aa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Peterson,
President