



Bering Sea Elders Group

November 9, 2023

Angela Drobnica, Chair
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
1007 West 3rd Ave., Suite 400 L92 Building, 4th Floor
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Bering Sea Elders Group Nomination of Eva Burk for the Alaska Native Tribal seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Advisory Panel

Dear Chair Drobnica and Members of the Council,

Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG) is pleased to nominate Nenana Tribal Member, Eva Burk, to serve as the Alaska Native Tribal seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) Advisory Panel (AP).

BSEG is an organization of 38 member Tribes from the Kuskokwim Bay to the Bering Strait. Our mission is to speak and work together as one voice to protect and respect our traditional ways of life, the ocean web of life that supports the resources we rely on, and our children's future. BSEG's Elder Representatives were selected by their tribal councils and are messengers to our children, and the people who make decisions that affect our marine resources, ecosystem, and ways of life. We greatly value our long relationships with the Tribes and Tribal Organizations that we work in Coalition with to protect our traditional lands and waters.

Ms. Burk grew up on the Tanana River and has lived off the land learning the traditional ways of life from her parents and grandparents. She has a strong interest in food security and living a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Burk is a strong advocate for subsistence living and sustainable food growth, which is a high priority for Bering Sea communities as well as Interior communities, as tribal members on the coast as well as up- and down-river face hunting challenges and an ongoing fishing crisis.

Ms. Burk is an excellent candidate for a seat on the NPFMC AP. She has a strong understanding of fishing issues, related data, and can effectively communicate with fellow AP members, Alaska Native communities, and the general public. As a tribal member and active participant in her region's subsistence and fishing community, Ms. Burk brings to the table a deep understanding of Alaska's marine and river environments, including deep internal connections to her traditional lands and waters, and invaluable traditional knowledge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
BERING SEA ELDERS GROUP

Jaylene Wheeler