



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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January 6, 2015

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
e-mail: boards@alaska.gov

Re: Alaska Department of Fish and Game -- Appointment of Sam Cotten

Dear Mr. Haight:

It has come to our attention that the acting commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), Mr. Sam Cotten, has submitted his name for consideration to serve as permanent commissioner on the ADF&G.

In my capacity as Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Cotten over the past decade on issues related to the Bering Sea crab and halibut fisheries. Both of these fisheries are critical to the health of Saint Paul Island's economy and have faced challenges in recent years.

As a past and current member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), Mr. Cotten has been fair, accessible, and dedicated in his approach as councilmember. More importantly from Saint Paul's standpoint, in his position Mr. Cotten has been a tireless advocate in support of community interests and participation in Alaska's fisheries. Mr. Cotten understands that proper management of the Bering Sea's commercial fisheries includes developing policies that take into account and protect the vested stake of fisheries-dependent communities. Fisheries dependent communities such as Saint Paul cannot survive without such policies.

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, therefore, I highly recommend that Sam Cotten be appointed permanently as commissioner of the ADF&G.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Simeon Swetzof, Jr., Mayor

On behalf of the
Council of the City of Saint Paul, Alaska

cc: City Councilmembers