



# 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](mailto:Council.Appointments@noaa.gov)

Re: North Pacific Fishery Management Council Nomination of John Moller

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

The City of Saint Paul (the City) strongly supports the appointment of John Moller for the seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) for which he is nominated by Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy.

The City is the municipal government for Saint Paul Island whose approximately 400 residents constitute one of the largest concentrations of Unangan/Aleuts in the world. Saint Paul 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.

For the last 4 decades, Saint Paul's economy has been largely reliant on the activities of the harvesting and processing activities of the crab industry centered within the Saint Paul Harbor. However, 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 Mr. Moller in various capacities over the years. In our experience, John has been consistently accessible and responsive. The City believes that Mr. Moller will be an effective Council member given his background and previous experience with the Council process.

Mr. Moller an Unangan/Aleut from Unalaska with deep roots in subsistence and commercial fishing. He is a former council member with the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska and has also served on the Ounalashka Corporation board of directors. In the realm of fisheries, Mr. Moller previously served on the Council's Advisory Panel and has over four decades of commercial fishing

experience. He has also managed fish processing plants in Adak and Atka, and was the general manager of a Western Alaska CDQ organization.

As such, Mr. Moller has a deep personal understanding of the challenges facing rural Alaska and in particular the Aleutian Island/Bering Sea region in this era of climate change, as well as the fisheries management issues that are important to the region.

For the above reasons, the City believes that Mr. Moller will bring important and much-needed perspectives into the NPFMC decision-making process. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacob Merculief". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jacob Merculief, Mayor  
City of Saint Paul, Alaska

Cc: Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, [janet.coit@noaa.gov](mailto:janet.coit@noaa.gov)  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, attn: Matthew Robinson, [matthew\\_robinson@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:matthew_robinson@murkowski.senate.gov)  
Senator Dan Sullivan, attn: Carina Nichols, [carina\\_nichols@sullivan.senate.gov](mailto:carina_nichols@sullivan.senate.gov)  
Representative Mary Peltola, attn: Martha Newell, [martha.newell@mail.house.gov](mailto:martha.newell@mail.house.gov)  
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