



April 28, 2015

Governor Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

Salmon For All is non-profit trade association of Columbia River commercial fishermen, processors, and ancillary businesses, representing the Columbia River non-Indian gillnet fishing industry. Our fishermen are the commercial fishermen that former Governor Kitzhaber wanted to be transitioned to “enhanced off-channel fisheries” by the beginning of 2017. Fishing on the Columbia River mainstem is to become a recreational priority under the Kitzhaber plan.

I write today on behalf of the Salmon For All Board of Directors in support of your appointment of Bruce Buckmaster of Astoria to fill the vacant seat for the 1st Congressional District on the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission. The 1st Congressional District has gone without representation on the Fish & Wildlife Commission since Jon Englund’s term ended in November 2012. In the meantime, the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission adopted rules to transition our fishermen away from mainstem fisheries. We were not allowed a voice in the process.

In all fairness, I should say that Bruce is a former Salmon For All Board member. And since he traveled to Salem to speak with legislators on our behalf, he was required to register with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission as a lobbyist. However, he did so at his own expense. He was never paid, no did he ask for reimbursement of any kind, shrill voices to the contrary notwithstanding. It was an entirely volunteer effort.

During the past ten years, I’ve gotten to know Bruce quite well. He is well-educated, well-read, and remarkably intelligent. He is an innovative thinker. In his long business career, he worked with agriculture and industry, centering on animal health and nutrition. During his years with Bioproducts and Bio-Oregon, he processed fishery byproducts into hatchery feed, developing a low-phosphorus fish feed for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife hatchery system to comply with Clean Water Act regulations. Bruce also has served on many Boards and Commissions, including the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Advisory Board, the ODFW Native Fish Policy Task Force, the Federal Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force, the ODFW External Budget Advisory Committee, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. He is a Trustee of the Columbia River Maritime Museum, and has served as its Treasurer.

A native of Indiana, Bruce Buckmaster describes himself as a lifelong hunter and fishermen, and an avid fly fisherman. He has sport fished in many places in the world. He is a person who understands both recreational and commercial fishing. He is a natural diplomat whose inclination is to resolve controversies, rather than to create them. During his years with Salmon For All, he worked to establish a close working relationship with the Columbia River Treaty Tribes based on trust and friendship.

In an era when the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is facing budget shortfalls of increasing intensity, Bruce could bring to bear an understanding of fiscal policy and money management. It is always difficult to do more with less. The Fish & Wildlife Commission would benefit from having someone with experience doing that.

In closing, Bruce Buckmaster would make an outstanding members of the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission. I heartily commend you, Governor Brown, for appointing him to the Fish & Wildlife Commission, and recommend his speedy confirmation by the Oregon Senate.

Respectfully,


Hobe Kytr, Administrator
Salmon For All