

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Palmer C. Sekora, Chair
2640 E. Wilshire
Eugene, Oregon 97405

June 4, 1992

Dr. David R. Gibbons
Exxon Valdez Oil Trustee Council
645 G Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Re: Nomination of James G. King to Public Advisory Group

Dear Dr. Gibbons:

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) takes great pride in nominating James G. King to be a member of the Public Advisory Group to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. Mr. King's address and telephone number are

James G. King
1700 Branta Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-789-7540

As Mr. King's enclosed resume makes clear, he is an accomplished professional wildlife biologist/manager whose expertise in public lands and natural resource management in Alaska encompasses some 43 years. Mr. King retired from his position as Supervisor, Alaska Waterfowl Investigations, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 1983. During his retirement, Mr. King has continued his biological research, including publication and presentation of technical papers at biological meetings.

Mr. King has been involved with many of the "principal interests" identified by the Trustees, including science/academic, environmental, conservation, and sport hunting. Mr. King's interest in serving on the Public Advisory Board is to function as an objective wildlife biologist. Mr. King's nomination is supported by the National Audubon Society (David Cline, 907-276-7034), the National Wildlife Refuge Association (Charles Hewlitt, 303-249-8717) and the Trumpeter Swan Society (David Weaver, 703-358-1784). Support from other groups may be forthcoming.

Mr. King is one of the founder's of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) and has long been interested in the impact of oil development on Alaska's seabird populations. For example, he is an author of a paper published in 1979 entitled "An Oil Vulnerability Index for Marine-Orientated Birds". Mr. King is one of Alaska's premier experts on waterfowl (including sea ducks) and has published articles on censusing eagles and conserving salmon.

We believe that Mr. King's experience in pragmatic, problem-solving research makes him an ideal candidate to serve on the Public Advisory Group. Mr. King draws on a lifetime of experience as a professional wildlife biologist and resource manager in Alaska. He knows the biology of the species that were affected by the oil spill and understands their management needs. As a retiree, Mr. King's judgment is unclouded by the conflicts of interest that could influence the judgment of similarly-qualified individuals who may submit research proposals to the Trustees or who may work for the same natural resource agencies as the Trustees.

The appointment of Mr. King would provide a means for PSG to provide the Trustees with its views. PSG is an international organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study and conservation of Pacific seabirds. PSG's 500 members are drawn from the entire Pacific Basin, including Russia, Canada, Japan, China, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. A substantial portion of PSG's membership resides in Alaska. Among PSG's members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, state and federal officials who manage seabird refuges, and individuals who are interested in marine conservation. Collectively, PSG's members have written literally thousands of peer-reviewed scientific papers on the biology and management of seabirds. We believe that no other organization has comparable expertise concerning the biology of the seabirds in the North Pacific Ocean. As noted in the enclosures, PSG has hosted symposia on the biology and management of virtually every seabird species that was affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

We urge that you appoint Mr. King to the Public Advisory Group to ensure that the Trustees utilize PSG's and Mr. King's expertise in the biology and management of seabirds.

Sincerely,

Palmer C. Sekora
Chair

Enclosures