

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Office of The Governor
Room 280
Boston MA 02133

January 30, 2013

Dear Governor Patrick,

I am writing you on behalf of the Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf club concerning the upcoming appointment of the "at large" seat on the New England Fishery Management Council currently held by Colin "Rip" Cunningham, who will soon vacate said seat due to term limit. A representative from the Massachusetts recreational fishing community has traditionally held this seat.

We are a recreational fishing organization that meets in Springfield, MA. Western MA has a larger than you might expect community of salt-water anglers. As dedicated anglers we are very concerned with the fisheries issues managed by the Council. Our members travel to historic coastal fishing communities such as Cape Cod and Gloucester to rent hotels and patronize small charter boats and large deep sea fishing operations. We fish for species like Cod and Haddock. We care about fishing issues and want healthy sustainable fisheries. We want our historic fishing traditions to be passed on for many generations to come.

We humbly request that you support Patrick Paquette as your number one choice for this seat.

Multiple officers of our organization have known Mr. Paquette since the mid 1990s. We have fished with him and he has presented seminars on fishing to our club. Mr. Paquette is a long time advocate from our community and will represent our interests well. He has expert knowledge of our community across the Commonwealth's diverse fishing community and is well versed on the issues of importance to that community. Mr. Paquette's is pro fishing and his resume shows he can work with both the commercial and environmental communities to find reasonable balance when crafting fisheries regulations. Mr. Paquette is one of us and we believe he is highly qualified to serve on the NEFMC.

Your serious consideration of placing him first on the list will serve the Commonwealth's need for balance between stewardship of our natural resources and maintaining the Commonwealth's rich fishing tradition.

Sincerely
Robert Ruzala
President
Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club

Cc: Senator Michael Knapik (Michael.Knapik@masenate.gov)
Cc: Representative Aaron Vega (Aaron.Vega@mahouse.gov) Cc: Patrick Paquette
CC: Paul Diodati, MA Division of Marine Fisheries (Paul.diodati@state.ma.us)