

Dear Joint Board,

I am writing to voice my staunch opposition to Proposal 16, which seeks to dismantle the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee. My name is Anastasia Affatato, and my roots run deep within the community of Elfin Cove. Having lived here year-round and spent 12 years in Alaska, I have become an integral part of the fabric of our small fishing town.

My connection to Elfin Cove extends far beyond mere residency. From working summers at the barge, hauling fish, to my current role at a local lodge, I have immersed myself in the ebb and flow of our fishing industry. Yet, my bond with the wildlife and fishing community transcends occupation; it is a way of life. Living amidst the serenity of Elfin Cove, I have cultivated a profound love for the fish and wildlife that grace our waters and forests.

Elfin Cove thrives on the vitality of its fishing industry, serving as the lifeblood of our economy, particularly during the bustling summer months. As a firsthand witness to the rhythm of these resources, I understand the delicate equilibrium required to sustain them for future generations. Additionally, our reliance on the land for hunting provides an essential source of sustenance during the harsh winter months.

While the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee may have experienced periods of dormancy in the past, there is a palpable resurgence of interest among community members and user groups to actively engage in the decision-making process. As a stakeholder deeply committed to the sustainable management of Elfin Cove's resources, I stand ready to serve as one of the required participants on the Advisory Committee. Together, we can reignite community involvement and ensure that the voices of those directly impacted by decisions are not just heard, but heeded.

I implore the Board to recognize the critical importance of local representation and the invaluable insights that the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee offers. By preserving this vital mechanism for community engagement and resource management, we can safeguard the future of Elfin Cove for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Affatato