

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Kaitlin Vadda
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: Ruffner - Board of Fish
COMMITTEE: S. Resources / House Fisheries DATE: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

I'm a sport fisher. I catch all my salmon, trout, halibut, ling, rock fish, etc. on a ~~sp~~ rod or in a dip net. Many of my friends from Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Girdwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, and beyond all come to fish on the Kenai River. All of us who enjoy fishing on this river and use the Kenai River fishery to help feed our families have benefitted from Mr. Ruffner's 20+ years of work on the Kenai. For the benefit of all user groups, he's helped make sure the fish come back year after year. That's why I'm supportive of appointing Mr. Ruffner to the Board of Fish. Thank you

My name is Todd Smith. I am a life-long peninsula resident and avid fisherman - both sport, personal use, and commercial. I would like to voice my support for **both** Board of Fish appointees before you today.

At the board meetings I have attended, Mr. Huntington has been open and honest – willing to listen to all sides, and not afraid to speak to what he feels is right and fair. His perspective, openness, fairness, and knowledge of statewide fisheries are an asset to all Alaskans, and he represents our best interests well. I encourage you to confirm his continued service on the Board of Fish.

As a fisherman and Peninsula resident active in my community, I have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ruffner and have followed his work. He is level-headed, honest, fair, and willing to listen to everyone's point of view. His own point of view carries with it a scientific perspective, and this would be a valuable asset to the board. He is a creative problem solver, has broad fisheries knowledge and has been supportive of and worked with ALL fish user groups and many different organizations – likely why he has broad statewide support from a diversity of interests.

Through his actions, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated that he values the best interest of ALL Alaskans equally. He has taken on tough issues affecting our fish and habitat, and worked towards creative solutions which have helped increase fish production for everyone while improving the user experience for all people, no matter where they may live or what fishery they choose to participate in. I am confident that as a board member Mr. Ruffner would continue to work with all user groups fairly, would advocate for solutions that benefit everyone, and, in keeping with Alaska law, would hold our pristine habitat in the highest regard, understanding that it is an essential base for the productive fish runs that we all value and enjoy.

Mr. Huntington and Mr. Ruffner will be a benefit to all of us, regardless of our fishery of choice or what community we call home. I encourage you vote to confirm them both and to lean on your fellow legislators to do the same.

Thank you,

Todd Smith

Kenai



I am Ed Schmitt a retired surgeon living in Soldotna. I am also Chairman of KAFC. We are an inclusive group representing "Joe Fisherman", all people who fish on the Kenai peninsula wherever they may live. Our board is composed mainly of retired state or federal fisheries biologists. Our members are avid dipnetters, sportfishermen, and river ecologists. One of our members **Spencer DeVito who was the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award;** just wrote to me:

Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner, As I highly support Robert's nomination.

I personally am an avid fly fisher. I first visited the Kenai River in 1988 and got a fly rod world record salmon. I long for the day when the Kenai returns to producing world records of all species of salmon.

I get my reds from the personal use fishery and frequently have friends from Anchorage stay with me when they are down dip netting. I understand how important the Personal Use fishery is to Joe Fisherman. We need the best possible science to manage this river for all user groups.

A scientist is someone who uses impeccable logic to analyze the best available data. As a surgeon I had to strive to maintain that standard. When new data became available or if my results were not perfect, I had to modify my procedures accordingly. From a lifetime of training, I recognize and celebrate good practical scientists.

Robert Ruffner is an excellent scientist. His thorough, inclusive, and community centered work at the Kenai Watershed Forum demonstrates both his knowledge and understanding of all fishing issues on the Kenai Peninsula. Because of this, he is very well qualified to examine fish issues anywhere in the state. I don't think there could possibly be a better candidate for the board of Fish. If we want the best possible decisions made in an open and inclusive process, Robert is the best possible choice.

Governor Walker, I would like to encourage the inclusion of Robert Ruffner on the Board of Fish. He has an excellent reputation at the Watershed Forum for being knowledgeable about fishing issues, fairness in weighing options and working well with others.

Thank you.
Marge Hays

Box 2876
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Governor Walker,

I'm writing in support of Mr. Dwight Kramer and Mr. Robert Riffner for a position on the Board of Fisheries (BOF). Both of these superb individuals will return an ethical reform and a science-based philosophy back to the BOF. In addition, they both have distinguished themselves locally, statewide and nationally with their unparalleled involvement with habitat restoration and resource protection across this great State.

There have never been more knowledgeable and acceptable candidates for this key BOF position. I cannot foresee how any legislator could object to either of their confirmations onto this valuable State Board. I sincerely believe these two fine professionals would serve your administration, the great people of this State and ultimately the resources itself in a very responsible and accountable manner. It is extremely crucial that the BOF have diverse, knowledgeable and ethical representatives from the South Central region on the BOF.

I personally endorse both these individuals for a seat on the BOF.

v/r,

Shaun Churilla-Eagle River

~~726-0308~~

I urge you to appoint Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner will represent no special interest group, instead he will consistently represent Alaska's fisheries resources. He can be counted upon to apply the best science available to the decision making process. In my opinion, he is the best candidate to apply in many years. As a longtime angler (which is my I live in Alaska) and a retired fisheries biologist, I am encouraged to see people of his calibre volunteer to serve on the Board.

Richard Marshall
37186 Cannery Road
Kenai, Alaska 99611

Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner. As the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award; I highly support Robert's nomination. Spencer DeVito

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to support Robert Ruffner for the Board of Fish. Mr. Ruffner has the experience, knowledge, expertise, and interpersonal skills to be an excellent member of the Board of Fish. His knowledge and background concerning the Kenai River is especially important in light of the declining king salmon.

Please vote for Robert Ruffner to be on the Board of Fish.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Bob McCard

PO Box 591, Kasilof, AK, 99610

Email: bmccard@alaskafish.net

Dear Governor Walker,

We are writing in reference to your upcoming appointment of two Board of Fisheries positions and would like to recommend Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of those positions.

It is extremely important to us that members of this board are well-qualified in order to make good decisions. The very future of our salmon and other aquatic life that coexist in the Kenai River and the entire Kenai Peninsula area are at stake.

Tough decisions will need to be made and that requires board members that are well-versed and have been actively involved in an effort to conserve their existence. As the founder and past executive director of the Soldotna-based Kenai Watershed Forum, Mr. Ruffner would meet those qualifications. He has supervised many projects that have benefitted habitat and conservation issues and it has been obvious that his primary interest is in habitat and conservation issues and not personal gain. His efforts have not favored sport, commercial, or personal-use fishing and that would give him a more unbiased approach to decision making.

We are sports fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula and we would like to encourage you to seriously consider Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of the two positions that are open on the Board of Fisheries. He lives on the Kenai Peninsula and his many years of experience have been on the Kenai Peninsula which would be invaluable in his decision making.

Regards,

Clifford and Sondra Hugg
37091 Tiny Rd.
Soldotna, AK 99669

907-260-5871

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Dan Paslucci

REPRESENTING:

KWF/Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

I'm here about the Nomination of the Governor

Conservation with a backhoe

The man that goes by Robert Ruffner

he puts in his work

Who used to work for the Watershed

always level headed

about which lots of stuffs been said

he's never a jerk

I'm not here to defend the Watershed forum

Some people ^{fear} ~~claim~~ he's a radical upstart

I was told "They're busy, please don't bore 'em"

but I think he's a cool dipshitter

So I'll just say there's no one better

to work to bring all folks together

I think he's the man that should join Board of Fish
even if his nomination is not quite trash

whether fixing the culverts or cleaning the river

Roberts a guy that can clearly deliver

if you think he's one-sided, it just isn't true

he does the work that needs to get done

for example, did ~~not~~ sit down and talk

and gather input from everyone

directly to you

So if you think he's special interest

I'd say it's true

Thanks for your time and the work that you do

If by special interest

please remember this rhyme and please push Robert
Thorough

you mean he's got interest in you

Oh and one more thing

Orville's good too

My Name is Lisa Gabriel.

I am a resident of the City of Kenai.

I have lived in the Kenai area for over 52 years. During that time, I have been a sportfisherman-personal use fisherman-and commercial fisherman. (All of which I still participate in today.)

I would like to express my support for Robert Ruffner's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Based on my personal experience in both the board process and with board members- I feel that Mr. Ruffner will bring a needed balance to the process-not based on his home address-but on his knowledge of fish and their habitat. I believe that Mr. Ruffner will be an asset to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for ALL areas of the State of Alaska and ask the members of this committee to support his confirmation.

LISA GABRIEL
KENAI AK
~~000 757 1~~

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Penny Vadla

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Robert Ruffner

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

4/8/15

I am a 38 year resident of Alaska. My husband and two children were born and raised in Alaska. We are an "outdoor" family who love the activities this great state has to offer.

I am a fisherwoman who has fished many areas in Alaska - currently boast a trophy dolly varden.

Robert Ruffner works with youth, works ^{on} ~~with~~ conservation, and he cares and works hard for all Alaskans.

He is conscientious, dedicated, hardworking and unbiased.

He is collaborative as well as creative and shows great understanding in the area of sound, scientific knowledge pertaining to fish and water habitat protection.

His efforts to create a healthy, sustainable habitat for our waters in the State of Alaska is remarkable. He does not show biases so he would be a more collaborative, cooperative, forward thinker on the Board.

He will be a strong advocate not only for fish management but also for sustainable habitat and continued conservation work!

Robert Ruffner will advocate for the sustainability of the waters in ALL areas of this great state of Alaska.

Robert Ruffner has always
"put fish first" through his
conscientious demeanor!

Thank you,
Penny Vadla

Daniel George

From: Bob McCard <bmccard@alaska.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:18 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish

Dear Senator Stoltze:

I am writing to encourage you to vote for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fish . Mr. Ruffner excelled in his position as executive director of the Kenai Watershed Forum <http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/> . He worked effectively with people of widely different views, and consistently made protection of salmon and their habitat his first priority. He clearly has the scientific expertise and experience needed to ensure that Board decisions are based on science rather than politics.

Sincerely,

Robert A. McCard and Pamela Hays

Daniel George

From: Donald witzel <witzdp@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Bill in Committee

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Don Witzel
975 N Richmond Ln
Palmer, AK 99645

Daniel George

From: Jeff Fair <fairwinds@briloon.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As a sport fisherman in Alaska for 20 years, and an outdoor writer and field biologist, I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources. Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fair
PO Box 2947
Palmer, AK 99645

Daniel George

From: Jim Richardson <resecon@alaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: letter of support for Robert Ruffner

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To: Senate Resources Committee

From: Jim Richardson

Re: support for appointment of Robert Ruffner to Board of Fisheries

Date 3/25/2015

Co-Chairs Geissel and Costello and Resources Committee members:

I would like to strongly support the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am a property owner on the Kenai River, and was a board member and President for the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board for many years. I have participated in Board of Fisheries meetings for the past 30 years. I am also a fisheries economist, with experience at the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (staff economist); Sea Grant at UAF (research faculty), and have managed and operated an economic consulting firm focusing on resource issues (ResourcEcon) for the past 25 years in Anchorage.

In my opinion, there is no more difficult job in Alaska than to be a member of the Board of Fisheries. Robert Ruffner brings many years of experience in evaluating use-related issues in Alaska's waterways, on the Kenai Peninsula and elsewhere. His expertise would be a welcome addition to the Board of Fisheries. It was largely Robert's work that helped the Kenai River overcome its water quality impaired designation from oil contamination caused by outboard engines by assisting the switch to 4-stroke engines.

As you know, we have been experiencing a collapse in the Chinook salmon resource in almost all waters of Alaska in the past several years. Rather than just having the perspective of user groups fighting over the remaining 'scraps' of the resource, Robert Ruffner brings the welcome perspective to help bring changes needed to assist resource recovery, something that no other (current) member brings to the Board. He is also a reasonable and thoughtful person, and will not make decisions just to appease one or another user group if that decision will result in damages to our waterways.

I believe Robert Ruffner's perspective and expertise will greatly assist the Board of Fisheries in their difficult job to first protect our fisheries resources, and I urge you to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely
Jim Richardson
1543 East 26th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Daniel George

From: JoeRay Skrha <joeray_muse@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 1:27 AM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Confirmation for Robert Ruffner to BOF

Dear Sen. Stoltze,

My name is Joe Ray Skrha and I am an attorney in Kenai where I have lived and practiced law for the past 32 years. I was a Kenai River Drift Boat Guide from 1985 through 1994. Now I sport fish as much as my time allows.

I wish to encourage you to confirm Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Board Of Fish. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

The Kenai Watershed Forum has supported sport fishing interests of guides and private fishermen alike while encouraging children to learn the principals of conservation even before they learn how to cast. Robert has served at the Kenai Watershed Forum's executive director for the past 18 years.

Many years ago, Gov. Steven Cowper wanted to nominate me to the BOF but since I was a fishing guide (and lawyer) my nomination was dead in the water.

During the past 25 years, all I hear is we need non-biased people on the BOF that do not have a preordained agenda. Now with Roberts nomination, you have that person who comes with clean hands. Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. His is a quality individual that has my full support.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Joe Ray Skrha
Attorney at Law

Law Office of Joe Ray Skrha
230 Main Street Loop; Suite B
Kenai, AK 99611 USA

907-283-7100 office
907-283-8100 fax
907-283-6100 residence
907-398-1800 cell

skrhalawoffice@alaska.net

Daniel George

From: Lee Beaman <lebeau@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 5:11 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Please confirm Robert Ruffner for Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As a sport fisherman in Alaska, I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

Lee Beaman
PO Box 2328
Palmer, AK 99645



120 N. Willow St. PO Box 586 Kenai, AK 99611
907.929.0388
accrabak@earthlink.net
www.aksalmonalliance.

April 12, 2015

Senator Bill Stoltze
Chair, State Affairs
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Endorsement of Robert Ruffner for appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Senator Stoltze:

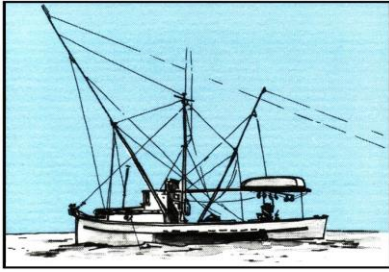
I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Salmon Alliance to express our support for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Several ASA Board Members have known Robert since he moved to Soldotna in 1996, almost twenty years ago and began the formation of the Kenai Watershed Forum

Robert is well-known for his leadership in the development of the Kenai Watershed Forum, a diverse group of residents that represent all user groups, businesses and “stakeholders” dedicated to working together for the health of our rivers and streams in Southcentral Alaska. As a tireless advocate, Robert developed and refined conflict resolution techniques while working on contentious issues related to water quality and land use on the Kenai Peninsula over the past several years. During that time, Robert a man of patient demeanor, repeatedly demonstrated his ability to defuse conflict and emotion on complex issues, and to distill out solutions that cut across competing interests. Robert focuses on his understanding of science while weighing economic and personal interests. Robert also treats all parties he works with in complex conversations with respect, regardless of their point of view. Robert has a keen intellect and his past successes demonstrate he does his research on complicated technical issues. He knows this is requisite to contribute to a fair and respectable two-way exchange important in any public regulatory process.

The ASA is confident that Robert will contribute well in the Board process, not just with the complex Cook Inlet issues, but with issues in regions throughout the State.

Sincerely,

Paul Dale
President
Alaska Salmon Alliance



Alaska Trollers Association

130 Seward #205
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-9400 phone
(907) 586-4473 fax
ata@gci.net

March 21, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
State of Alaska
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

The Alaska Trollers Association supports the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board).

The most essential ingredient of a solid Board process is the appointment of people who bring to the table a willingness to learn, combined with a shared vision of sustaining both fisheries resources and fishing communities. It is important for fishermen of all kinds that the Board is made up of people with first-hand knowledge of Alaska's fisheries and gear, but that's only one part of the equation. How they approach their task can make all the difference when it comes to successfully harmonizing the needs of each region. There are lots of ideas about what mix of people makes up a 'balanced' Board of Fish, but we contend it's not just a head count by gear type - with well over 150 fisheries around the state, that's an impossible goal. Board member 'attitude' is a huge component of successful Board outcomes and should not be overlooked.

Mr. Ruffner is an angler who has proven himself a consensus builder. He honed that people-skill while working to protect habitat and sustain Alaska's natural resources. Robert is familiar with Cook Inlet and the value of all fisheries to the social and economic health of the region and state. He has expressed a commitment to science; transparent decision-making; and, bridging diverse interests for the good of all. That kind of attitude is precisely what's needed on the Board, and far outweighs the wearing of any particular fishery stripe.

Therefore, ATA supports Mr. Ruffer for the Board, because we believe he will be studious about learning what he needs to know and applying that knowledge to best serve the resource and fishing public. We hope you agree and will move to appoint him to the Board of Fisheries.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or be of help in any way.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director

From: Soldotna Chamber of Commerce <director=soldotnachamber.com@mail63.atl91.mcstv.net> on behalf of Soldotna Chamber of Commerce <director@soldotnachamber.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Soldotna Chamber - Board of Fisheries Recommendation

[View this email in your browser](#)



A Letter from the President of the Chamber

Dear Alaska Legislator:

It is my pleasure to write a letter on behalf of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. **I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Robert Ruffner, to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries.**

I have had the pleasure of serving with Robert on the Chamber Board of Directors for the past 7 years. During that time, we have benefited greatly from Mr. Ruffner's education and broad knowledge base. I have also appreciated Mr. Ruffner's effectiveness in communication, collaboration and consensus building... all of which contribute to his qualifications for the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner has repeatedly proved himself to be effective at interfacing with various user groups, both as a Chamber Board member, and as Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum. While remaining very objective, he has a unique ability to foster open communication and find common ground. As President of the Chamber of Commerce Board, I have often relied on Mr. Ruffner's expertise on local issues, as well as board processes. I have always found Mr. Ruffner to be a worthy adversary when we landed on opposite sides of an issue, but I note he always acted with objectivity and respect, in debating the issues. Mr. Ruffner's scientific background will also serve him well with the many difficult decisions required of the Board of Fisheries members.

It is on behalf of the Soldotna Chamber Board of Directors, and without reservation, that I offer this letter of support for the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries. I urge you to give careful and thoughtful consideration to his

nomination. The State of Alaska and its fisheries will be well served to have Mr. Ruffner on this board. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Ryan Kapp, Board President
Soldotna Chamber Board of Directors
(907) 262-6336
ryan.kapp@edwardjones.com

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You are receiving this email because you opted in to receive correspondence from the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Our mailing address is:

Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
44790 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, AK 99669

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Suggested by: City Council

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT RUFFNER TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES.

WHEREAS, Alaska Governor Bill Walker has appointed Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature will consider the confirmation of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries during the 2015 Legislative Session; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai is an Alaskan Fishing Community; and,

WHEREAS, commercial fisheries, sport fisheries, personal use fisheries, subsistence fisheries and shore-based fish processing facilities take place and/or are located within the City of Kenai's Municipal boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, it is vitally important that members of the Alaska Board of Fisheries manage fishery resources and habitat for the benefit of all Alaskan's both present and future ; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Ruffner, during his eighteen year tenure as the Executive Director of the Kenai Watershed Forum, has demonstrated exemplary leadership in building consensus among widely diverse user groups; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner's training as a scientist and statistician provide the basis for sound decision-making based on scientific analysis; and,

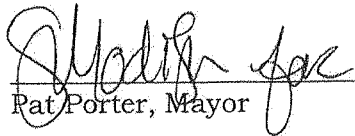
WHEREAS, he has been recognized by, and received awards from, the Coastal America Partnership and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service for his efforts and leadership in fish habitat restoration and protection; and,


WHEREAS, his efforts in quantifying increased levels of hydrocarbons in the Kenai River, identifying measures to reduce hydrocarbon levels, and management of programs to reduce hydrocarbon levels, resulted in the Kenai River being removed from the Environmental Protection Agency's Listing of Impaired waterbodies; and,

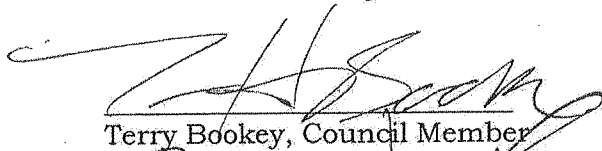
WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has worked closely with Mr. Ruffner and the Kenai Watershed Forum over the past eighteen years, finding him to be unbiased, possessing keen analytical skills, and committed to sound scientific based decision making which will well serve the State of Alaska and its citizens.

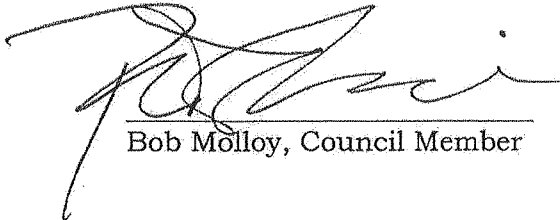
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, that the City Council supports the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

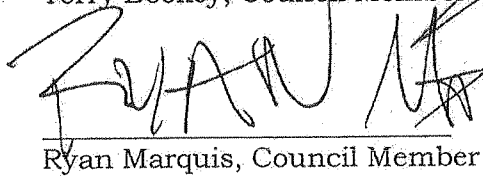
PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 1st day of April,
2015.


Pat Porter, Mayor

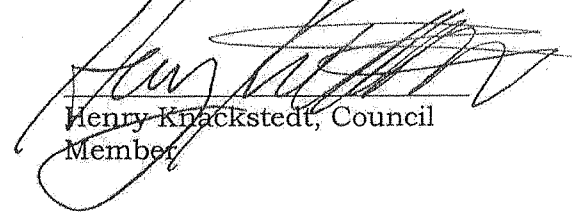

Brian Gabriel, Vice Mayor

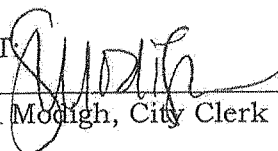

Terry Bookey, Council Member


Bob Molloy, Council Member


Ryan Marquis, Council Member


Tim Navarre, Council Member


Henry Knackstedt, Council
Member

ATTEST 
Sandra Modigh, City Clerk

Introduced By: Sprague
Date: March 25, 2015
Action: Adopted
Vote: 5 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2015-019

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONFIRMATION OF ROBERT RUFFNER'S
APPOINTMENT TO THE ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

WHEREAS, Robert Ruffner has a long record of habitat advocacy for Kenai Peninsula rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has for many years been director of the Soldotna-based Kenai Watershed Forum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has resided on the Kenai Peninsula for the past 19 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner has demonstrated his good judgement and ability to work with people in:

- 18 years of service as executive director of the Kenai Watershed Forum,
- four-and-a-half years of service on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission,
- three-and-a-half years of service on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Roads Service Area board,
- membership in the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce, where he is Chairman of the Finance Committee, and
- his recent appointment to the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission; and; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Mr. Ruffner would provide diversity of interest and points of view in the board of fisheries membership (per Alaska statute 16.05.221); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner is held in high esteem by commercial and sportfish user groups; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruffner is a dipnetter and therefore is knowledgeable about dipnet issues; and

WHEREAS Mr. Ruffner has a bachelor's degree in geology and years of experience working with biology;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the Soldotna City Council thanks Governor Walker for appointing Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

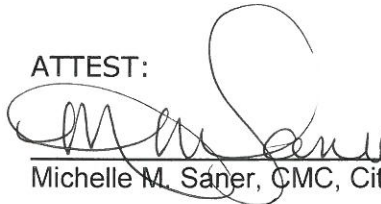
Section 2. That The Soldotna City Council respectfully asks the Alaska State Legislature to support the confirmation of Mr. Ruffner as a member of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Section 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Senate President Kevin Meyer, Speaker of the House Mike Chenault, and all members of the Alaska State Legislature.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH, 2015.

ATTEST:


Michelle M. Saner, CMC, City Clerk


Nels Anderson, Mayor

Ayes: Baxter, Whitney, Daniels, Bos, Sprague
Noes: None
Absent: Murphy



- Main Office (907) 224-4050
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Community Development (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038

March 27, 2015

Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
Members of the Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate

Dear Honorable Chair Giessel and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Seward City Council I would like to ask your support in confirming Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Our community has had the opportunity to work with and get to know Mr. Ruffner over several years with the Kenai Watershed Forum. The focus of his work has been habitat improvement and reclamation, particularly for anadromous fish streams. He and the Forum have also been an extremely valuable resource for our local Flood Service Area Board as they consider and implement flood mitigation strategies, again calling upon his expertise in habitat for salmon streams.

We've learned from this experience that Mr. Ruffner's first concern is for the overall good of the resource. We believe that concern will serve the Board well as it considers the issues before it, and that Mr. Ruffner will help the Board fulfill the responsibility to manage the resource for the benefit of the all the people of the State, and not to benefit any particular user group at the expense of another.

We believe the ability to work productively within a group of people with different objectives that they are passionate about would be of great value to any board, and the people of Alaska would be well served by having Mr. Ruffner's ability utilized at the Board of Fisheries. We've witnessed that ability in our own back yard. Several years ago a disastrous flood left many structures damaged, residents displaced, and no sign of help on the horizon. At a town hall meeting with over a hundred attending, emotions ran high, and opinions were all across the board. Mr. Ruffner moderated the meeting with a calming hand, and in the end brought out the key points needed for a solution satisfactory to the great majority. That's a rare ability, and one that should be welcome at the Board.

We urge you to confirm Robert Ruffner's nomination to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Jean Bardarson".

Jean Bardarson
Mayor, City of Seward

Cc: Senator Peter Micciche, Representative Mike Chenault



KENAITZE
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P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611

Alaska State Legislature
All Members
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

March 30, 2015

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe strongly supports Robert Ruffner as a Board of Fisheries member. Mr. Ruffner is highly respected in our community for working with State, Federal, and local agencies as well as federally recognized tribes, such as the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

Kenaitze Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Tribal Government reorganized in 1971 under the statutes of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended for Alaska in 1936. The Tribe has established long term goals which enhance the health, social and economic well-being, cultural heritage, and governmental concerns of its people, and serves over 3,700 Alaska Native, American Indian and other people who reside in the central and upper Kenai Peninsula, including approximately 1,430 enrolled Kenaitze Tribal Members and 170 Salamatof Tribal Council (STC) Tribal Members. The service area includes the central Kenai Peninsula communities of Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Cohoe, Cooper Landing and the surrounding area.

Mr. Ruffner's leadership and knowledge will serve the Board of Fisheries well.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Peterson-Nyren

Executive Director

Kenaitze Indian Tribe



April 7, 2015

Dear Alaska Legislators:

My name is Brad Elfers and I own Alaska Fly Fishing Goods, which is a full service fly fishing equipment shop and internet retailer, based in Juneau since 1998. I'm writing to express my support for Board of Fisheries nominee, Robert Ruffner.

As a sport angler and someone who's livelihood depends on sport fishing, I believe Robert will do an excellent job of representing my interests on the Board of Fisheries, however just as importantly, I believe Robert will be a strong advocate for the long-term health of fish and their habitat.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Ruffner and give him the opportunity to put his experience and expertise to work on the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,

Brad Elfers
Owner
Alaska Fly Fishing Goods
8465 Old Dairy Road, Ste. 101
Juneau, AK. 99801
(907) 586-1550

8465 Old Dairy Road | Suite. 101 | Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-586-1550 | Fax: 907-586-3734 | Email: brad@alaskafllyfishinggoods.com | Website: www.alaskafllyfishinggoods.com

AS&T

Alaska Science & Technology LLC
P.O. Box 100400
Anchorage, AK U.S.A. 99510-0400

Established 1980

907.562.2482
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akscitec@alaska.net

April 10, 2015

Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska Senate
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801

(via member email addresses)

Subject: Robert A. Ruffner Confirmation -- Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear State Affairs Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Members:

I highly recommend Robert Ruffner to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries. His education and ongoing experience is outstanding and directly applicable. As executive director, he developed the Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) into a successful public service organization.

Additionally, Mr. Ruffner has represented Alaska on the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Advisory Panel. Also, he has gained valuable experience with complex public issues, while serving on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission and the Road Commission. He is a lifelong sport fisher.

I am a longtime resident and divide my time between Anchorage and Cooper Landing. I have known Mr. Ruffner's good work at the KWF since its founding in 1997. As one of the founders, I am very pleased to say that his accomplishments have been outstanding. After sustainable development and long tenure as executive director, he is looking for new challenges.

Mr. Ruffner is a capable, well-reasoned individual, who demonstrates a temperate demeanor and good judgement. He will be impartial when dealing with special interests, and strive for productive, science-based fisheries in the best interests of the public.

Please support confirmation of Robert Ruffner to serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert L. (Bob) Baldwin, CEO
c) 907.250.3913
<kenailake@arctic.net>



"Working for Alaska's Salmon Future Today"

120 N. Willow St. PO Box 586 Kenai, AK 99611
907.929.0388

accrabak@earthlink.net
www.aksalmonalliance.com

March 5, 2015

Karen Gillis, Director
Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
Bill Walker
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Karen.Gillis@Alaska.Gov

Re: Endorsement of Robert Ruffner for appointment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Dear Karen:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Salmon Alliance to express our support for the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Several ASA Board Members have known Robert since he moved to Soldotna in 1996, almost twenty years ago and began the formation of the Kenai Watershed Forum

Robert is well-known for his leadership in the development of the Kenai Watershed Forum, a diverse group of residents that represent all user groups, businesses and "stakeholders" dedicated to working together for the health of our rivers and streams in Southcentral Alaska. As a tireless advocate, Robert developed and refined conflict resolution techniques while working on contentious issues related to water quality and land use on the Kenai Peninsula over the past several years. During that time, Robert a man of patient demeanor, repeatedly demonstrated his ability to defuse conflict and emotion on complex issues, and to distill out solutions that cut across competing interests. Robert focuses on his understanding of science while weighing economic and personal interests. Robert also treats all parties he works with in complex conversations with respect, regardless of their point of view. Robert has a keen intellect and his past successes demonstrate he does his research on complicated technical issues. He knows this is requisite to contribute to a fair and respectable two-way exchange important in any public regulatory process.

The ASA is confident that Robert will contribute well in the Board process, not just with the complex Cook Inlet issues, but with issues in regions throughout the State.

Sincerely,


Arni Thomson
Executive Director