

## House Resources Committee

I'm Robert Mumford of Anchorage Alaska and am writing in **strong support** of the reappointment of Ted Spraker and the initial appointment of Dr. Larry VanDaele to the board of game.

I am a forty year resident of Alaska and a life-long outdoorsman, hunter, and wildlife photographer. I am a retired Fish and Wildlife Trooper and have worked as a bush pilot doing wildlife survey flying, hunter transports, and actively fly my personal Supercub.

I have had the honor to serve on the Big Game Commercial Services board, the board of Fish, and the board of Game.

In my experience, I have found that individuals seek board appointments for either of two reasons;

- 1.) **Self-less** service to the State
- 2.) **Self-serving** service, to support their special interests

Both Ted Spraker and Dr. VanDaele represent the **self-less** desire to serve the state. Both men had stellar careers in wildlife management in Alaska. Both are highly respected in their fields and among their peers, and both are considered experts in the science and biology that is often presented to the board of game.

Beyond the obvious however, both are exceptional men. I know them both personally.

Ted Spraker and I have worked side by side during our careers and I can say that he has the strongest heart of service to this state than any man I know. Ted has many years of experience serving on the Big Game Commercial Services board, which is often a thankless and time consuming task. He and his wife have been volunteer instructors for Women on Target and Kids on Target programs, have taught Hunter Safety, and Ted never refuses to engage the public when asked.

Ted has tirelessly served on the board of Game since 2003, which requires a steady demeanor and sound knowledge of Alaska's constitution and statutory mandates, all of which he possesses, plus a deep respect for the people and resources of Alaska.

Ted has weathered some criticism over some of the decisions he has made while on the Game board. Who hasn't! He and I have had opposing opinions on certain issues while serving on the Game board together. Although we may have voted differently, it was always done with a mutual respect, which is a hallmark of Ted's approach with people in general.

Ted's record on the board of Game is defined by his devotion to the ethical management of Alaska's resources and his deep respect for all Alaskans.

Dr. Larry VanDaele brings with him an unparalleled scientific background and knowledge of resource management that is the perfect fit for a board of Game appointee.

More than that, Larry brings to the table a warm and caring attitude and understanding of the widely varying needs of Alaskans, both urban and rural. He is a gifted communicator and knows how to work with people and agencies that have differing perspectives on wildlife management. The respect that Larry brings to the board of Game cannot be overstated.

Both Ted Spraker and Larry VanDaele are prime examples of **self-less** service Alaskans.

**Self-serving** appointees tend to be pushed to serve by special interest groups. A dictionary definition of special interest groups is;

*“Any association of individuals or organizations, usually formally organized, that, on the basis of one or more shared concerns, attempts to influence public policy in its favour”*

I would respectfully ask the committee to be very careful vetting anyone who is a member of a special interest group that only seeks to put their own **self-serving** political agenda ahead of the best interest of all Alaskans. An appointment to the board of Game comes with the responsibility of a statewide perspective and putting aside personal biases in favor of sound management practices. It's a big responsibility, one that both Ted Spraker and Dr. Larry VanDaele have demonstrated they are experts at.

These are important appointments, please vote wisely.