



BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ALASKA CHAPTER

www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org



April 3, 2015

To: House Resources Committee

Re: Board of Fish appointee Robert Ruffner

Letter of Support for Robert Ruffner

Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers strongly support Robert Ruffner's confirmation to sit on the Alaska Board of Fish (BOF).

Mr. Ruffner's work with the Kenai Watershed Forum and involvement in Kenai Peninsula habitat and fisheries conservation issues over the years has given him a unique understanding of how our Board of Fish operates and how to work with others on contentious fisheries issues for the betterment of the resource and all user groups.

We cannot think of a more qualified person to be on the Board of Fish and make decisions that are grounded in science and unbiased fairness to all user groups.

We understand there are concerns among some that because Mr. Ruffner does not reside in Anchorage, and there is no other Anchorage resident currently on the BOF, that Anchorage will not be fairly represented. We disagree with that sentiment and want to point out that there are no requirements that BOF members must reside in specific geographical locations, and that all BOF members represent all Alaskans, regardless of where that board member lives.

We firmly believe that Mr. Ruffner will fairly represent Anchorage as well as the rest of the state. He has broad experience with all user groups as well as personal experience in the sport fish and personal use fisheries across the state. We urge the committee to forward his name.

Thank you,

Mark Richards – Chairman Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers