

I am Ed Schmitt a retired surgeon living in Soldotna. I am also Chairman of KAFC. We represent Joe Fisherman, all people who fish on the Kenai peninsula wherever they may live. Our members are avid dipnetters, sportfishermen, and river ecologists. Our board is composed mainly of retired state or federal fisheries biologists.

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 the 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.

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.

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: John McCombs - Niniichik

REPRESENTING: self

BILL # or SUBJECT: Ruffner BOF confirmation

COMMITTEE: House & Senate
McChain & committee

DATE: 04-03-2015

I read that Robert Ruffner is a dipnetter. I did not know that before last week/month.

What I did know prior to his appointment, his accomplishments as boss at the Kenai watershed Forum. He worked on culverts and water quality and made the case for banning foam stroke outboards on the Kenai River. He is the leading steward of Kenai River habitat. There is a need for a skilled habitatician on the board of Fish.

Therefore I have no reservations in my endorsement of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries.