



- 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 cursive script that reads "Jean Bardarson".

Jean Bardarson
Mayor, City of Seward

Cc: Senator Peter Micciche, Representative Mike Chenault