

Dear Representative,

I would like to address Governor Walker's recent appointment of Robert Ruffner to our Alaska Board of Fisheries, thus replacing Judge Karl Johnstone who resigned from the board. Ruffner has been the Executive Director and heart of the Kenai Watershed Forum, KWF for many years but has just recently resigned from this position. Ruffner's KWF organization claims to represent our local economic, environmental and fisheries interests with "balanced representation". I disagree with the KWF's balanced representation claim and would like to explain why I disagree.

What if I created an organization which contains board members as follows; 45% sport fishing interests, 33% environmental interests and 22% commercial fishing interests? What if I claim this organization contains "balanced representation" even as it contains twice as much sport representation as commercial representation? Would you believe my balanced representation claim? I predict that most would not and would question how I get "balance" when I obviously have twice as much sport interests as commercial interests? In the above illustration I am claiming "balanced representation" when reality shows something completely different.

I have researched the reality backgrounds of Robert Ruffner's KWF's board members, there are nine of them. Leslie Morton, Matt Pyhala, David Wartinbee, Denise Newbould, Benjamin Jackinsky, Jim Butler, Howard Ferren, Ken Marlow and Jim Stogskill. Morton is an environmental scientist, Pyhala is a chiropractor, Wartinbee is a biology professor, Newbould is a commercial fisher, Jackinsky is a commercial fisher, Butler is a commercial fisher, Ferren is a commercial fisher, Marlow is a sport fisher and Stogskill is a sport fisher. These nine board members actually represent (4 commercial fishers, 2 sport fishers and 3 environmental scientists). This comes down to

45% commercial fish interests, 22% sport fish interests, 33% science interests. The KWF website clearly claims that their KWF goal is to have "balanced representation" and then both Ruffner and the KWF either deliberately or accidentally manipulate their board seats into "unbalanced representation".

This representation conflict forces me to see the KWF like that beautiful Christmas Tree in the corner of the room. You walk up to smell it but there isn't a pine smell. Looking closer the disappointment sinks in as you touch it and discover it to be a fake tree, with really fantastic decorations. With the largest interests within the KWF being commercial fishing, I find the KWF to actually be a "commercial fisheries tree" with many environmental and sport fish decorations hanging within its branches. If the KWF can logically be defined as a "commercial fisheries organization", then Robert Ruffner can also be defined as "a leader of a commercial fisheries organization".

I would like to know how Governor Walker can expect the Alaskan Sport Fish Community to accept a commercial fisheries leader like Robert Ruffner, to fill Johnstone's empty sport fish seat? The Alaskan Sport Fish Community deserves an

ACTUAL Sport Fish Leader to replace Karl Johnstone, not someone MASQUERADING as a Sport Fish Leader.

Please vote to NOT confirm Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,

Donald Johnson
Soldotna, Alaska