

Dear Representative,

My name is Joe Ray Skrha and I am a attorney in Kenai where I have lived and practiced law for the past 32 years. I was a Kenai River Drift Boat Guide from 1985 through 1994. Now I sport fish as much as my time allows.

I wish to encourage you to confirm Mr. Robert Ruffner to the Board Of Fish. Robert's background in science and commitment to sound management of Alaska's fisheries make him an excellent candidate for the Alaska Board for Fisheries. His demonstrated respect for Alaska's constitutional principal of sustained yield and his ability to rise above the political fray, will serve him well while working to implement the Board of Fisheries core functions of conservation and development of Alaska's fisheries resources.

The Kenai Watershed Forum has supported sport fishing interests of guides and private fishermen alike while encouraging children to learn the principals of conservation even before they learn how to cast. Robert has served at the Kenai Watershed Forum's executive director for the past 18 years.

Many years ago, Gov. Steven Cowper wanted to nominate me to the BOF but since I was a fishing guide (and lawyer) my nomination was dead in the water.

During the past 25 years, all I hear is we need non-biased people on the BOF that do not have a preordained agenda. Now with Robert's nomination, you have that person who comes with clean hands. Don't look this gift horse in the mouth. His is a quality individual that has my full support.

Thank you for your support securing the appointment of Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Joe Ray Skrha
Attorney at Law

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