

Good afternoon,

I am on the line to testify in support of Robert Ruffner for Board of Fish but have to get off the phone - please include comment in the public record.

My testimony is as follows:

Good afternoon Senator Giessel and the rest of the Senate Resource Committee. My name is Eric Booton and as an Anchorage sport fisherman, I am excited to hear that Robert Ruffner is a nominee for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Ruffner has demonstrated his dedication to Alaska's fisheries through his extensive work to improve fish habitat and advocating for salmon, trout and the anglers who dedicate their lives pursuing them. Ruffner will provide the BOF with the fresh and big picture approach it desperately needs. Please join me in confirming him to the Board. Thank you for your time and hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,
Eric Booton

Senator Giessel,

I am primarily a sport fisherman from Anchor Point and I just spent the last hour and a half in Homer hoping to testify at your Resource Committee this afternoon. It would be nice if this message could be read in front of that committee prior to its conclusion today.

I listened to a surprising amount of concern over who was supporting Mr. Ruffner when I naively assumed the interest would be in the attributes he may bring to the table. I have around 32 years of experience with various aspects of managing the fish & game resources on the Kenai Peninsula. Now I believe it is time to put a scientist on the committee who is concerned about the fish and not a representative of any particular user group.

Having members on the Board who's interest is biased toward representing a user group and not necessarily putting the resource first has caused and continues to cause deep animosity between those groups. When I go to the Board of Fishery meetings I always ask myself "but what about the fish?". I've noticed when the fish numbers are healthy we have a lot less conflict statewide.

Please consider a small shift in the paradigm and support Robert Ruffner as a Board member who will lean toward the overall health of the resources. It should be apparent by now that the current system isn't working out very well. Thank you kindly for giving folks like me an opportunity to express our opinion.

...Lynn Whitmore

Dear Senator Giessel,

As a sport fisherman in Alaska, I am writing in support of Robert Ruffner for the Alaska Board of Fisheries. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Michael Scott
Anchorage, AK 99504

Honorable Senator Giessel –

Esteemed Senators and Mayor Navarre - My name is Suzanne Little, I live in Anchorage.

I am a former Alaska State Senator elected to serve people of the Kenai Peninsula. I have taken time out of my day to testify in support of Robert Ruffner's confirmation as a member of the Alaska Board of Fish.

I lived outside Soldotna for over 17 years and Robert was my neighbors for over almost 2 decades. As my neighbor and a member of the community I came to know Robert Ruffner . I know him to be a fine man and a person of great integrity and a person who works to helping opposing viewpoints see common ground and a way forward. Using science and building common ground, I've seen Robert quietly and respectfully accomplish big goals for the good of the Kenai River again and again. Robert has a solid reputation of level-headed leadership and bringing opposing sides of an issue together. He is respected by all fishing groups.

Mr. Ruffner is an individual who doesn't care about my fish or your fish- he just cares about all fish and the health of the habitat that supports them. I don't know how the Board of Fisheries morphed into 'assigned seats' situation but I respectfully submit that's not the way it was intended to be in the originating legislation NOR is it the best way to manage our resource.

I know Robert will prioritize science in decision making on behalf of Alaska's fisheries resources. I wish the entire board of fish was made up of people who had no specific interest- other than making sure there are fish for our children and grandchildren- to catch, to eat, to sell.

I strongly recommend approval of Robert Ruffner as a member of Alaska's Board of Fisheries. I know his scientific knowledge and infectious values of integrity will serve fisheries resources and the State of Alaska well.

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Suzanne R. Little
Anchorage, AK 99515
