

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai_LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Kaitlin Vaella
REPRESENTING: Self
BILL # or SUBJECT: Ruffner - Board of Fish
COMMITTEE: S. Resources / House Fisheries DATE: _____

I'm a sport fisher. I catch all my salmon, trout, halibut, ling, rockfish, etc. on a ~~sp~~ rod or in a dip net. Many of my friends from Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, Girdwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, and beyond all come to fish on the Kenai River. All of us who enjoy fishing on this river and use the Kenai River fishery to help feed our families have benefitted from Mr. Ruffner's 20+ years of work on the Kenai. For the benefit of all user groups, he's helped make sure the fish come back year after year. That's why I'm supportive of appointing Mr. Ruffner to the Board of Fish. Thank you

I am Ed Schmitt a retired surgeon living in Soldotna. I am also Chairman of KAFC. We are an inclusive group representing "Joe Fisherman", all people who fish on the Kenai peninsula wherever they may live. Our board is composed mainly of retired state or federal fisheries biologists. Our members are avid dipnetters, sportfishermen, and river ecologists. One of our members **Spencer DeVito who was the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award;** just wrote to me:

Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner, As I highly support Robert's nomination.

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 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.

Governor Walker, I would like to encourage the inclusion of Robert Ruffner on the Board of Fish. He has an excellent reputation at the Watershed Forum for being knowledgeable about fishing issues, fairness in weighing options and working well with others.

Thank you.
Marge Hays

Box 2876
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Governor Walker,

I'm writing in support of Mr. Dwight Kramer and Mr. Robert Riffner for a position on the Board of Fisheries (BOF). Both of these superb individuals will return an ethical reform and a science-based philosophy back to the BOF. In addition, they both have distinguished themselves locally, statewide and nationally with their unparalleled involvement with habitat restoration and resource protection across this great State.

There have never been more knowledgeable and acceptable candidates for this key BOF position. I cannot foresee how any legislator could object to either of their confirmations onto this valuable State Board. I sincerely believe these two fine professionals would serve your administration, the great people of this State and ultimately the resources itself in a very responsible and accountable manner. It is extremely crucial that the BOF have diverse, knowledgeable and ethical representatives from the South Central region on the BOF.

I personally endorse both these individuals for a seat on the BOF.

v/r,

Shaun Churilla-Eagle River

726-0308

I urge you to appoint Robert Ruffner to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Ruffner will represent no special interest group, instead he will consistently represent Alaska's fisheries resources. He can be counted upon to apply the best science available to the decision making process. In my opinion, he is the best candidate to apply in many years. As a longtime angler (which is my I live in Alaska) and a retired fisheries biologist, I am encouraged to see people of his calibre volunteer to serve on the Board.

Richard Marshall
37186 Cannery Road
Keni, Alaska 99611

Dear Mr. Schmitt, I was very happy to learn that we finally have an exceptional candidate for the B of F in Robert Ruffner. As the 'original' Professional Sportfishing Kenai River Fishing Guide, retired in 1980 and recipient of the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce Kenai River Pioneer Award; I highly support Robert's nomination. Spencer DeVito

Dear Legislator:

I am writing to support Robert Ruffner for the Board of Fish. Mr. Ruffner has the experience, knowledge, expertise, and interpersonal skills to be an excellent member of the Board of Fish. His knowledge and background concerning the Kenai River is especially important in light of the declining king salmon.

Please vote for Robert Ruffner to be on the Board of Fish.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,
Bob McCard
PO Box 591, Kasilof, AK, 99610
Email: bmccard@alaska.net

Dear Governor Walker,

We are writing in reference to your upcoming appointment of two Board of Fisheries positions and would like to recommend Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of those positions.

It is extremely important to us that members of this board are well-qualified in order to make good decisions. The very future of our salmon and other aquatic life that coexist in the Kenai River and the entire Kenai Peninsula area are at stake.

Tough decisions will need to be made and that requires board members that are well-versed and have been actively involved in an effort to conserve their existence. As the founder and past executive director of the Soldotna-based Kenai Watershed Forum, Mr. Ruffner would meet those qualifications. He has supervised many projects that have benefitted habitat and conservation issues and it has been obvious that his primary interest is in habitat and conservation issues and not personal gain. His efforts have not favored sport, commercial, or personal-use fishing and that would give him a more unbiased approach to decision making.

We are sports fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula and we would like to encourage you to seriously consider Mr. Robert Ruffner for one of the two positions that are open on the Board of Fisheries. He lives on the Kenai Peninsula and his many years of experience have been on the Kenai Peninsula which would be invaluable in his decision making.

Regards,

Clifford and Sondra Hugg
37091 Tiny Rd.
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-260-5871

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Dan Paslucci

REPRESENTING:

KWF/Self

BILL # or SUBJECT:

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

I'm here about the Nomination of the Governor
The man that goes by Robert Ruffner
Who used to work for the Watershed
about which lots of stuffs been said
Conservation with a backhoe
he puts in his work
always level headed
he's never a jerk
I'm not here to defend the Watershed from
I was told "They're busy, please don't bore 'em"
So I'll just say there's no one better
to work to bring all folks together
I think he's the man that should join Board of Fish
even if his nomination is not quite trashy
whether fixing the culverts or cleaning the river
Roberts a guy that can clearly deliver
he does the work that needs to get done
and gathers input from everyone
if you think he's one-sided, it just isn't true
for example, did ~~not~~ sit down and talk
directly to you
So if you think he's special interest
I'd say it's true
If by special interest
you mean he's got interest in you
Thanks for your time and the work that you do
please remember this rhyme and please push Robert
Through
Oh and one more thing
Orville's good too

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.

LISA GABRIEL
KENAI AK
252-9524

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME:

Penny Vadla

REPRESENTING:

BILL # or SUBJECT:

Robert Ruffner

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

4/8/15

I am a 38 year resident of Alaska. My husband and two children were born and raised in Alaska. We are an "outdoor" family who love the activities this great state has to offer.

I am a fisherwoman who has fished many areas in Alaska - currently boast a trophy dolly varden.

Robert Ruffner works with youth, works ^{on} conservation, ^{EFFoi} and he cares and works hard for all Alaskans.

He is conscientious, dedicated, hardworking and unbiased.

He is collaborative as well as creative and shows great understanding in the area of sound, scientific knowledge pertaining to fish and water habitat protection.

His efforts to create a healthy, sustainable habitat for our waters in the State of Alaska is remarkable.

He does not show biases so he would be a more collaborative, cooperative, forward thinker on the Board.

He will be a strong advocate not only for fish management but also for sustainable habitat and continued conservation work!

Robert Ruffner will advocate for the sustainability of the waters in ALL areas of this great state of Alaska.

Robert Ruffner has always
"put fish first" through his
conscientious demeanor!

Thank you,
Penny Vadla