



March 18, 2015

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing on behalf of Trout Unlimited's thousands of Alaska based members and supporters to recommend that you appoint Robert Ruffner to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Alaska Program of Trout Unlimited works to protect, reconnect, restore and sustain Alaska's salmon and trout resources through scientific investigation, grassroots engagement and by engaging in partnerships with fishing organizations, NGO's, agencies, municipalities, tribes, business owners and anglers.

As a practice, Trout Unlimited does not work on fish allocation issues but we do seek to engage on issues that unify fisheries stakeholders and fulfill our organizational mission. We feel Mr. Ruffner's science background and longtime leadership with the Kenai Watershed Forum and Kenai Peninsula's Fish Habitat Partnership, as well as his love of angling, aligns well with the interests and values of our members.

We feel Mr. Ruffner is exactly the type of board member Alaska needs at this time. It's time for the Board of Fish to focus on fisheries conservation and development and reel back the amount of politicking that goes on within and around the BOF process. Mr. Ruffner will bring a much needed, non-allocative, big picture approach to the board, which in turn will be of tremendous service to the people of Alaska.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this extremely important appointment and please let me know if it would be of any help to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Tim Bristol, Alaska Program Manager  
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