

9 April 2015

Committee Testimony by Dan Chay, Kenai, Alaska to the House Special Committee on Fisheries

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To: House Special Committee on Fisheries

Re: Robert Ruffner Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing

Representative Stutes and members of the House Special Committee on Fisheries,

Because committee timing seems to have been delayed again today, please accept my comments in writing.

I've known Robert Ruffner professionally for more than 15 years. I've watched Board of Fisheries processes for much longer. From my perspective, Robert Ruffner is the possibly the best candidate for the Board of Fisheries that I've seen during that time.

Robert is among the best candidates I've seen for three significant reasons: competence, integrity, and character.

Competence. I think Robert's extensive experience in hydrology, fisheries science, and ecology uniquely qualify him for the Board of Fisheries. His broadband scientific skills will should help all Board members constructively engage in the wide variety of issues from around the state that the Board addresses.

Integrity. Robert's leadership on the Kenai Peninsula has been noteworthy for his numerous achievements on behalf of the river systems that enable Cook Inlet fisheries. Equally noteworthy are the broad-based coalitions that Robert organized on behalf of fish. People from diverse backgrounds and even-conflicting commercial interests trust Robert for his integrity.

Character. In addition to competence and integrity, Robert has demonstrated a long history of thoughtful, sober, diligent engagement at the level of public policy with regard to river and fisheries issues. Robert will do his homework to understand issues and digest evidence on behalf of all the fisheries and user groups in the state. I can say that with confidence because he has a consistent history of doing so.

Thank you,

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Dan Chay

Kenai