

October 7, 2007

Honorable Judge John Sedwick
United States District Court - Alaska
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Re: Rep. Anderson Sentencing Hearing

Dear Judge Sedwick:

I am Tom Anderson's longest friend. We became friends when our parents were neighbors in an East Anchorage trailer park. Tom's dad was a captain in the State Troopers, and my dad worked on the North Slope. Our mom's both worked too. We had the same babysitter. Tom was 4 years old and I was 3. Later, our folks moved and I attended Dimond High School and he attended Bartlett. Through the years, we have maintained a very close friendship, even though my school beat his more in sports. :)

There is no doubt in my mind, based on the positive light in which I view and have witnessed Tom live his life, and knowing full well he has many friends and has helped lots of people during his service to the public, that you have received many letters of support.

I've never written a letter like this, and I'll bet most or none of the people who submitted letters to you have either. More odd, is for whom we write the letter. **Tommy Anderson**. The kid who made everyone laugh. He was the only kid I knew who had a pogo stick, stilts, metal detector and a unicycle. His poor parents trying to keep up with this boy's adventures! He was also the aspiring politician who reminded me of Michael J. Fox's character "Alex P. Keaton," the young Republican on *Family Ties*.

I'm actually hesitant to have included the latter partisan reference. While you're a federal judge, and no doubt honorable and competent considering you had to be nominated to your post by the president, I don't know your particular affiliation. I also don't think it matters. But as a Democrat, and the son of a labor union family, I've seen how differing colors and badges and chevrons can alter perceptions, and sway an open mind, at least when it comes to policy and politics.

In Tom's case, my Democrat parents and I have always cheered for him as he ascended in the Republican ranks of the political scene. I thought he was pretty moderate. He was always so excited to get the chance to interview on T.V. news or on radio shows. Tom cares about people. He probably cares about what people think about him a little too much, too. I suppose we have to take his good nature and generosity with his big mouth and hyperactivity. It's worth it. He's a good guy. I think you either know, or are learning that fact, with the letters written about him.

I'm not good at letters, or this type of message. I'm not sure what compels a judge, or if you walk into the courtroom on Tom's "day of reckoning" and already know what you plan to do with him. I am very nervous for him, because it's scary to think of going to a jail. He really loves his wife Lesil and I haven't seen him be more proactive than with his boy [REDACTED]. He REALLY loves that little guy, and shows it.

Please don't make Tom your example when he comes before you. My folks and I were talking last week, and my dad wondered if, because Tom is the first to be sentenced, and all the other guys are coming up for trial or are going to be arrested, however it works - if Tom will punished to scare others from going to trial. I assume that is not true, and I assume you assess everything and as hard as it is, sentence people weighing all facts.

Who am I to ask for anything? I'm not Tom's family, and I don't know the details on what he did. I trust that he didn't mean to break the law. What I do know is that he's my friend, and has always been there for me. He's loyal, honest, and helps more than hurts.

I read how you treated the Aleut gentleman from St. Paul Island several days ago at his sentencing. You talked about how the lure of money caused him to betray his values. You said something to effect that his inability to hunt for food and village scorn trumped prison time. That sure seems to fit Tom's case. He has never had much money, and always aimed to please others, including his wife, and I think he didn't keep "the right thing to do" square with "the easy thing to do," while earning a living.

I'm not the best at public speaking, but will attend Tom's hearing to listen. I'd sure appreciate if you considered my thoughts. Thank you.



David R. Craig