

October 3, 2007

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

Re: Tom Anderson Sentencing Hearing

Dear Judge Sedwick:

I write to you beseeching a reasonable sentence for our family friend, Tom Anderson.

Tom's parents have been our friends for nearly twenty years. Tom is also friends with our eldest daughter, and socialized with our family through camping excursions, trips abroad, and during family holiday events. He is our friend. We respect and support him in this very difficult time.

My husband Roger and I remember the Tom Anderson who was a 21 year old security guard at the Sullivan Arena. He was an avid UAA Hockey and Basketball fan, and supported the *Blue Liners Club* and Great Alaska Shootout fundraising efforts. He was very vocal, between his studies and working at his folks' R.V. rental company, about becoming either a lawyer or a legislator, or both – in his career. Tom absolutely enveloped politics and policy.

When he went to law school in 1996 we were excited for him. The same went for his appointment to the Anchorage School Board and election to the Legislature. His dream was coming true, and solely because of his nose-to-the-grind-stone perseverance. His parents and grandparents were very proud.

Now, a decade later, Tom's dream of earning a license to practice law has been extinguished. His political career is over. And whether one would say this happened through his own volition or not, it is heartbreaking just the same for such a glowing, passionate young man. Our family mourns for the Andersons.

At trial, based on what I heard from friends who attended, and news reports, there was an inference by the prosecution that Tom was in politics for personal gain, or solely as a stepping stone to enrich his career monetarily. This could not be farther from the truth. Tom may have violated a federal law, but he always maintained an earnest approach to public service. And what's most tragic for Roger and I, is to see a young, bright, charitable couple like Tom and Lesil, have their family, finances, and reputations shredded apart as a result of Tom's arrest and conviction, and an unrelenting FBI.

Tom was a rising star, and worked very hard at sponsoring important legislation. He was cooperative and fair. I recall, when I worked for the International Union of Operating Engineers, that he crossed partisan lines and had overwhelming support from the entire spectrum of interests and advocacies, helping on labor issues as a Republican, and taking the heat from some of his Majority colleagues who were sadly swayed by affiliation alone.

His wife Lesil, quite frankly, is a star. She could be our future Governor. I had hoped she'd run for re-election, continuing as my state senator and representing the Sand

Lake community in 2010. Her heartfelt dedication, particularly for women and children's issues, is to be commended. She and Tom were a joy to watch on *Gavel-to-Gavel*. They really care about Alaskans.

Should you opt to sentence Tom to incarceration, I sincerely urge you to soul search on the consequence, and the intended outcome, for such a punishment. Every year Tom is in a prison, and not at home, his marriage will fracture, his toddler [REDACTED] will be without a dad and have only one parent – who is quite busy serving our state, and his already tarnished reputation, and more importantly - his wife's career - will be eroded, potentially, beyond repair. This would be a travesty! It doesn't seem like the definition of "justice."

It is not acceptable collateral damage to ruin Lesil's career and emotionally stifle [REDACTED] by overly punishing Tom for his improper legislative behavior. Your sentence *could* be jointly punitive and innovative by thinking of a way Tom could explain to Alaskans, and perhaps members of other state legislatures and local city assemblies, how public corruption harms everyone. This, in concert, with house arrest, ankle monitoring and fines.

I know Tom has been crushed by the allegations from the United States; feels repentant and contrite for his actions having embarrassed the legislature and impugned the process; and now he only seeks to become a better man, for the sake of his God, family, state and self. He may have broken the law, but he still has humility.

I hope he will receive your reprimand, and mercy, through thoughtful deliberation of his sentence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Connie Graff".

Connie Graff