

October 7, 2007

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

Re: Anderson Sentencing

Dear Judge Sedwick,

I would like to offer several thoughts and personal opinions of former Rep. Tom Anderson, and his sentencing, resulting from his conviction in July of this year.

I have known Rep. Anderson since before his election to any public office. While Tom was an aide to the Alaska House of Representatives I recall working with him as a University of Alaska college student lobbying for increased University funding. In my dealings with him in that capacity, I found him to be incredibly helpful and generous with his time. He was often willing to take an extra minute to offer advice on the legislative process and how I might be more effective in my appointed task.

Since then, I have gotten to know Tom further as a friend, supporter, and former employee. Personally, Tom has always shown a tremendous amount of generosity and sincerity. On numerous occasions, Tom has offered the use of his own vehicle or a place to stay in the midst of personal turmoil. My friendship with him has grown to the extent that he and his wife were two of a very small guest list attending my wedding in 2005.

Professionally, Tom was a pleasure to work for—always eager to help those who otherwise could find none and often enthusiastic about issues that other ignored because of insufficient media interest or long-term “payoff” (other than good public policy in which he ardently believed). As an example, while working for him I assisted him on bills to create a licensure for radiologic technologists and to bill to extend preventative colorectal cancer screening under mandatory insurance coverage. Both of these bills faced stiff opposition from moneyed interests, and in both circumstances, Tom proved to be a passionate and effective champion. I consider my work with him on these issues some of my finest and most rewarding during my tenure.

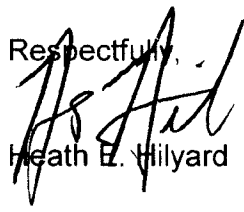
More important than any of these considerations is Tom’s role as a devoted husband and father. I have been a close friend of Tom and his wife, Sen. Lesil

McGuire, for many years. I count them among my very dear friends. I had the honor of holding their child, [REDACTED], weeks after his birth in [REDACTED] and I've enjoyed watching him grow and develop over the last year and a half. I also know Tom's other children, and I know that providing for them, and his current family, is undoubtedly his highest priority. I am deeply concerned how an excessively severe punishment will affect them.

I recognize that none of these considerations taken individually, or cumulatively, justify setting aside his conviction. However, I do believe they warrant serious assessment as your contour his sentencing. Even if he were subject to a minimal incarceration period, the weight of this conviction will follow him for the remainder of his days. His ability to provide for his family as a licensed attorney has been permanently removed from him; a career in politics, all but a distant memory; and the opportunity for professional licensures in any number of fields, in many states, completely eradicated.

Your honor, I ask for leniency. I ask that the charges of which he's been convicted be weighed in light of Tom's long history of dedicated public service, and his character and integrity as shown in the majority of his life's actions. Most importantly, I beseech your broader sense of justice in considering the overall impact on all Tom's children, giving special consideration to the one who may grow up barely remembering his father should a harsh sentence be imposed.

Respectfully,


Heath E. Wilyard