

[REDACTED]

October 4, 2007

Honorable Judge John Sedwick
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99512

Dear Judge Sedwick:

I am writing on behalf of my godson, [REDACTED]. His parents, Tom Anderson and Lesil McGuire, are my closest friends; we are family. I do not know Tom in his role as a public official or as an active member and advocate of the community and I don't live in Alaska. I have, however, lived in Tom's and Lesil's home; I have travelled with them; I know their families; I have laughed and cried and celebrated and mourned with them. And I sat right behind Tom, next to Lesil, throughout Tom's trial, living and breathing every minute, morning, noon and night with them as they experienced the most difficult two weeks of each of their lives.

I know you will receive many letters on Tom's behalf, singing his very due praises as a committed public servant, as a constructive and productive member of the community, as an advocate for those who would otherwise have no voice, as a loyal friend and as a loving husband. Those letters will, I am sure, reiterate that he has been and continues to be a productive member of the community, devoted to helping and serving his neighbors and friends, and that he deserves compassion so that such kindness and devotion can continue to be enjoyed by all of those whose lives he has touched. I agree with all of those sentiments. I write from a different perspective. I am writing not as a member of the Anchorage - or indeed of the larger Alaska - community, but on behalf of his baby boy, [REDACTED], who cannot yet himself write or express in words what a devoted, caring, loving and happy father Tom is and has continued to be throughout this harrowing ordeal, and how the loss of Tom every day in [REDACTED]'s life will inexplicably change [REDACTED]'s life forever.

I've never met anyone quite like Tom Anderson.

There are so many fathers and mothers in the world who parent from a distance, whether emotionally or physically; who take little to no interest in their children; who abandon their children at birth and afterwards for a myriad of reasons. In many instances this absence is the result of a parent not being capable of caring for a child or simply not wanting the responsibility of raising a child; and all too often, the absent parent is a father. I have personally seen in my own family how the voluntary absence of a parent can change the course of a child's life in an irreparable manner. The real tragedy is to have a parent - a father like Tom - who is willing, able and eager to be active in his child's life be separated *involuntarily* from his child.

To say that Tom is a merely a "good" father and husband is a monumental understatement! Tom is first in line to feed [REDACTED] when he is hungry; happy to see to [REDACTED] when he wakes in the middle of the night; considers mowing the lawn not a chore but an opportunity to watch [REDACTED] chase the kitties in the yard; is eager to take [REDACTED] with him in the car for

grocery store runs or to fill up the tank simply because it's an opportunity to tell [REDACTED] stories and to laugh with his son. Tom is out the door at the break of day to pick up coffee and the morning paper so he and Lesil might steal a few minutes together before the craziness of their day begins; he is the first to bring home a slab of salmon to put on the grill for dinner for Lesil and their friends to enjoy on a sunny summer's evening (as rare an occasion that that might actually be!); he is Lesil's most passionate cheerleader and most ardent defender. Tom would fight to the death to protect them both.

The Government's investigation of Tom and his resulting arrest, and his preparation for trial and trial have spanned more than the entire time [REDACTED] has been alive and has spanned nearly the entirety of Lesil's and Tom's relationship. It would have been very easy, and arguably reasonable, for Tom to shy away from or take a break from his responsibility as a husband to Lesil and a father to [REDACTED] in order to prepare for the trial of his life. But Tom has never considered this to be something that is happening to "him"; in his mind this has always been something that is happening to his entire family. And despite the thousands of hours and countless sleepless nights spent working to defend the well-being of his family, he still found time to help run his household and care for his pets and bring laughter into his home and visit his parents and spend time with his friends and never miss a moment to love and care for and play with Lesil and [REDACTED]. He is and has been ever present and ready to hold them when they cry, pick them up when they fall down, listen when they have something to say, offer advice when a lesson is sought, laugh when something is funny and offer unconditional love no matter what may happen.

Although my letter is focussed intentionally on [REDACTED] and Lesil, whose lives are inextricably linked to Tom, I would be remiss not to mention Tom's parents and the devastating effect this ordeal has had on them. Tom has never lived too far from his parents and never goes more than a day or two without seeing them. He is a loyal and devoted son who includes them in every aspect of his and his own family's life. Tom's parents, Tom and Christiane, too, are survivors. I had the honor of being invited to take part in Tom's family vacation in Germany a couple of years ago, where his mother's family had been separated by the Berlin Wall for an unmentionable number of years. This reunion was joyous and lively and poignant. Christiane has a very different view of what it means to be separated from her family. She, too, sat in the courtroom throughout much of the trial, listening to the things being said about her son. She never once doubted her son, never once never lost faith in the caring and honest man she had raised. The prospect of being separated from her son for any length of time is almost more than Christiane can bear; and as spry and feisty as she and Tom's father are, they are entering the twilight of their lives. The prospect of one of his parents not making it through the time that Tom is separated from them is nearly more than *he* can bear.

Tom simply does not have a dishonest or criminal bone in his body. He talks a lot and he's eager to please - both themes that ran through the trial - and he may be too trusting of those who haven't earned it. There are no words to describe the regret and remorse Tom feels about

what has happened and that his actions, which were motivated only by a need and desire to provide for his young family, have, in a macabre twist of fate, brought Lesil and [REDACTED] to this point. There are no words to describe the regret and pain that he feels every minute at the prospect of not being able to be with and care for Lesil and [REDACTED] each day for some indeterminate period of time. Whatever one's view of the events leading up to Tom's arrest might be, through the justice system, Tom has been judged by his peers and now his punishment rests in your capable hands.

Subsequent to the time of those actions leading to the Government's investigation of Tom, Tom has spent each day as a productive and caring man who has married the love of his life, had a baby son upon whom the sun rises and sets in his eyes, completed his term of office with his head high as one of the most productive and respected members of the House and has continued to provide valuable service and support to his community. These are not hallmarks of someone who is a threat or danger to the community, nor the attributes of someone from whom a child should be sheltered and protected. I would argue quite to the contrary: this is exactly the kind of man from whom many of us have much to learn; a man who will continue to speak for those who don't have a voice and champion valuable causes no one else is able to make succeed; a man who can and wants to provide for his family; a man who should be given the opportunity to continue to be the father he has always wanted to be to [REDACTED] and the loving husband he is to his wife, Lesil. This is the Tom Anderson that I and countless others know and love and respect.

On the day that Tom was convicted, there was an audible cry that could be heard rippling from Anchorage to California to Belgium to Hong Kong - from friends across the globe whose hearts were broken at the effect we all knew at that moment that this would have on Tom and Lesil and on our collective godson, [REDACTED]. I have spent my adult life as a teacher and a lawyer in the United States, London and now Hong Kong, and consider my most important tasks and jobs to strive to be a loving partner, mother and godmother, a dedicated daughter and sister and aunt and a supportive and loyal friend. I have learned and continue to learn each day something about all of these roles from my friends, Tom and Lesil.

[REDACTED] is the true innocent in all of this. [REDACTED] is too young right now to understand the reasons that his father won't be around - indeed his age has provided a shield from the intrusion that all of this has created in his parents' lives. However, [REDACTED] will most certainly note his father's absence: on his birthday, when it's time to sit on Santa's knee at Christmas, when it's time to mow the lawn, in the winter to go sledding and at night when it's time for daddy to sing him lullabies to sleep.

It goes without saying that [REDACTED] will have his mother, Lesil, who will give 200% to ensure that [REDACTED] does not want for anything and to ensure he is loved and is able to interact with Tom as much and as often as possible. Lesil has the patience of Job and the strength of a glacier. But even Job was tried and weakened and glaciers melt over time. I have known Lesil longer than I haven't known her and I simply don't have a more devoted and loyal friend. Lesil has experienced more joy during her relatively short life with Tom and [REDACTED]

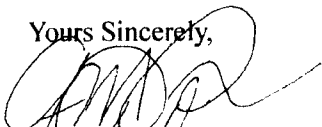
than she has in all of the other years she has had on this earth. The three of them together can accomplish anything and, I believe, survive all that comes their way. The three of them have a relationship that is enviable among all of those who know them. That their family will be split in this way will, however, profoundly affect all of them individually and as a unit. Yes, they will survive. Yes, they will continue to grow. They have already been devastated by the events of the last few years. They have already suffered and learned very difficult lessons throughout all of this. Tom made a decision to stand up and fight for himself and for his family, understanding that the consequences could be grave. He acted, as I have always known him to, in a manner that was honest and true to himself and to those he loves, following a path that he believed to be the right one to take.

During his trial, Tom stood before the court to have his actions judged and his character challenged. With all due respect, the court did not see the whole man - the father, the husband, the son, the brother, the friend to those who he loves so very much. With one's life under a microscope, it would be nearly impossible for anyone to look too good! This time when Tom stands before you, Judge Sedwick, I pray that you will see him as a man who is a father, who is a husband, who is a son, who is a brother and who is a friend. I pray that you will see a man who has suffered the loss of a career, has endured the scrutiny of the media and the public and who feels deep-seated regret, shame and grief for what has happened and for what he has put his family through. Tom is already being punished; so are Lesil and [REDACTED]. I pray that you will see before you not a man who is a threat to his community or to himself or to his family. Indeed, the biggest threat Tom poses to anyone is through his absence. This is the threat that the first memories [REDACTED] will form may not include his father; that [REDACTED] won't have the benefit of two ever present parents - a mother and a father - to guide him through the earliest formative years; that he may not have his father teach him to throw his first ball, to catch his first fish or to teach him to put the toilet seat down for his mom.

As parents, we can all try to comprehend the potential effects Tom's formal punishment will have on his marriage to Lesil and on his relationship with [REDACTED]. I say try to comprehend because it is almost unfathomable to truly empathize with what this family goes through day in and day out. I appreciate and respect your position at the bench. I pray that justice will be exacted in a manner that serves this whole man, Tom Anderson, whom I have humbly tried to describe, and the whole life he has led and the needs of his family. I hope that you will see a man whose absence will be felt fundamentally in more ways than I can begin to enumerate; indeed, a man who is the husband my friend has always dreamed of, an exemplary father, the guiding light of his family.

I respectfully ask you to open your eyes to this Tom Anderson when you are considering the most appropriate course of action.

Yours Sincerely,



Joanne M. Lytle