

September 27, 2007

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

Dear Judge Sedwick,

Tom Anderson is my friend. Tom and I met when he was a legislative aide, and I was a friend and business associate to former Athletic Commissioner Earl Davis (of *Call Earl Chevron* fame) in 1991.

I still remember our first meeting. Tom was just a "kid" in terms of age, early-20s, but his maturity regarding policy issues, and his honesty, were memorable. He talked too much – clearly a theme in his trial, and hopefully integrated into your rationale why not to overly punish (intent vs. stupidity). Tom and I bonded immediately, and he was supportive and a patron to my baby steps in boxing promotion in Alaska. *Thursday Night at the Fights* evolved as my creation, thereafter, and into a successful venue, and I'm proud of friends like Tom that supported my events and lauded the merit of amateur sports in Alaska.

As much as I'd like to refute allegations I heard at trial, as I sat behind Tom's family in support, I understand pragmatically and procedurally you can't be concerned with a recap of events. Tom will sit in your court next month, and faces your hand in punishment.

The fact remains though, that the FBI and Federal Prosecutor's Office have also soured the calling to serve in public office. The media has latched-on like a leech to the Governments' mission, while the congregation of indictments bodes poorly for any investigated legislator, considering all sources of talk lines, radio shows and media taking pop shots at politicians

accused of wrongdoing. Tom Anderson never had a prayer, in my humble opinion, when he fought the charges against him in this environment.

I can't express how bad I feel for Tom and his family. His dad and I serve in Rotary together. We worked together when he managed the Sullivan Arena and Egan Convention Center after retiring from the Troopers. I've been a guest at younger Tom's wedding, shared laughs and cries with him through life's challenges, and I know, unequivocally, that while he has appeared to have screwed up, he is not the person you see in the mug shot, or frowning in the paper after a jury verdict, or disparaged in editorials.

Tom Anderson is a hardworking, kind, generous and most importantly for you to consider, complex man. He broke the law. The Hobbs Act, which most of us have never heard of but accept. He abused his office for personal gain, the jury tells us. A conclusion forged by the Government's indictment. I won't, while I'd like to, trivialize his acts. He is a felon now.

The key to my judgment of Tom is that I know he feels remorse and shame. I also know, based on your prospective sentence, his family won't get to see him for however long you decide, but for (after an expensive plane trip and hotel costs), a visit in a room or yard or through plexi-glass at a prison. If you sentence imprisonment, and for over three years, he'll miss his baby [REDACTED]'s first day in Kindergarten. He'll already miss every birthday, and Halloween, and Sunday church service and Christmas that [REDACTED] will celebrate, or not, while incarcerated. He's been humiliated through the process, demoralized, and stripped of most of his dignity. His parents and wife and relatives suffer equal, if not more, pain. It's like a first-round knock out for everyone associated with him.

No doubt, you are far more knowledgeable in these procedures, in law and order, and more capable of the job than I. But Judge, please don't make an example of Tom and please evaluate his good nature and acts.

His life has been so altered, and hobbled, and maimed, not only by his actions, but by the Governments', that he'll have an uphill battle as it is - without a long sentence. Will his marriage survive? His folks are in their 70s, so could his mom or dad pass while he serves his sentence? That should be retribution, and deterrence, in and of itself. His hardship before

and during trial, and facing jail time at whatever length, as well as the disappointment of all, is harsh punishment. I fear a long sentence could destroy him, and certainly further erode salvation of his family unit.

Finally, before you think "But Tom should of thought of these points before he bribed for and extorted money using his position as a legislator," consider the environment in which he entered Juneau and what idiosyncrasies and behaviors occurred dwarfing any of Tom's actions.

To begin with, he was a legislative aide for six years and witnessed "how it worked," whether deemed right or wrong, ethical or improper, in the early 90s for legislators and contract work, and an attitude of entitlement. By no means do I applaud the behavior, and the new transparency directive is encouraging, but it wasn't Tom Anderson who created the mess, but it certainly was Tom who stepped in it and decided NOT to wipe it off.

The ascension from legislator to consultant, or government affairs advocate or lobbyist was commonplace. When Tom was elected, legislators like Sen. Scott Ogan (furniture maker) and Rep. Pete Kott (hardwood floorer) and Sen. Ben Stevens (commercial fisherman) and Rep. Vic Kohring (carpenter) were performing contract work. A new playing field arose of "work" had arisen which the public resented. To that degree, I always felt better about publicity on Tom's work because he truly was a consultant of public affairs and municipal grass root matters before seeking his legislative office. He also had a graduate degree in municipal management or something to that effect, and I always thought he'd become a city manager somewhere in Alaska.

Tom was more a product of his predecessors, and his ill-equipped gullibility meter, than of corruption. He was doomed the day he sought work beyond his legislative salary, because he was too intent on pleasing others, making a good impression, and building work after his legislative tenure. He had little income, or resources, making his desire to earn money and serve even more compounded. His actions, thereafter, were founded much less on a "corrupt politician's" desire to cheat the system, and more on making a living, supporting his kids, and becoming a real policymaker.

I think you'll find, upon deep reflection, Tom Anderson is a good man with a good heart. He will suffer from his mistakes, based on the true character and contemplative Tom I know and appreciate, irrespective of any sentence you impose.

Please consider a light sentence imposed on Tom Anderson so that he can atone publicly for his bad acts through community service, exposure, and embarrassment, rather than behind prison walls for so long that it becomes a detriment to his loved ones, and children, too.

Your compassion will mean so much, to so many, and will still invoke deterrence, retribution and the hammer of justice being heard just as loud by our society and Tom's peers.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Patton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Jim Patton