

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

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State Capitol, Room 120  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

October 27, 2009

The Honorable John Sedwick  
222 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 4  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Sentencing of Bill Allen and Rick Smith

Dear Honorable Judge Sedwick:

I am writing this letter as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee in reference to the sentencing of Bill Allen and Rick Smith. The sentence in these cases should punish the defendants and deter other individuals from corrupting the legislative process. The actions of Bill Allen and Rick Smith were extremely damaging to the integrity of the legislative process. These two men have broken the trust between the citizens of Alaska and their elected representatives.

Defendant, Bill Allen stipulated to facts and pled guilty to (1) conspiracy to commit extortion under the color of official right, to commit federal programs bribery, and to commit honest services mail and wire fraud; (2) federal programs bribery; and (3) conspiracy to impair and impede the Internal Revenue Services. The presentence report determined that the total amount of bribes paid out to state officials was just over \$395,000.

Prosecutors have asked for a sentence of imprisonment, in the vicinity of 46 months, for Mr. Allen, saying that this length of time would promote respect for the law

while, at the same time, taking into consideration Mr. Allen's substantial cooperation with the government. The government has also asked the Court to impose the maximum fine of \$750,000. In Mr. Smith's case prosecutors asked for a 42-month prison term and a fine of \$7,500 to \$75,000. Lawyers for Allen and Smith are asking for significantly lighter prison sentences and fines.

These sentence recommendations are considerably less than the six year sentence received by former Rep. Pete Kott, and just about equal to the 42 months to which former Rep. Vic Kohring was sentenced. Alaskans deserve justice. These men will potentially be sentenced to spend less time than in prison than what the legislators they were accused of corrupting are spending. These men victimized the Alaskan people by their ongoing criminal activities. They are the men that organized the whole endeavor of corruption for which Alaskans now pay the consequences.

Like many Alaskans, whom I mean for this letter to represent by proxy -- these despicable men have painted one of the darkest pictures in the State of Alaska's short 50 year history. Judge Sedwick, I encourage you to throw the proverbial "book" at them and sentence them to the maximum prison time.

Their degenerative behavior cannot be whitewashed by any provision of "cooperation with federal prosecutors." Myself and most Alaskans wish punishment could be greater than those allowed under the federal sentencing guidelines. Please demonstrate that these truly rogue characters, using the proper definition of the word, are sentenced to the maximum prison term allowed and are mandated into custody immediately.

Sincerely,



Representative Jay Ramras  
Chairman House Judiciary Committee

JR/jwp