Dear Mr. Tracogna,

My name is Patrick Lampi and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Zoo.

I spent 7 years as a Keeper (several as an elephant keeper), 13 years as the General Curator and the past six as the Director. I personally went through all of the heart ache in wrestling with the decision of discontinuing exhibiting elephants, the selection of a new home and the transportation.

It took years to get people to come to grips with the fact that it was the right decision to move our elephant. The PAWS facility was selected after a long vetting process. It was absolutely the correct choice.

Pat Derby and Ed Stewart were excellent to work with and completely respectful of our facility, others feelings and emotions. The planning and training for the transport was a joint effort and I could not imagine it turning out any better. I have been back to PAWS since we moved Maggie down there and I will be going again.

I know you are, and will be, receiving criticism for your decision. I was on the receiving end here during the entire process. I am sure a few close minded people around here still think we were wrong, but 99% of the diehard folks that were against our decision now believe that we did the right thing. So there is light at the end of the tunnel.

If you have questions about our experiences or would like more information on my recommendation of the PAWS facility I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

***Patrick S. Lampi***

**THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO THE TORONTO ZOO DIRECTOR**
**Thank you Director Lampi for your kind words of support.**
Pat Derby and Ed Stewart