



CITY & BOROUGH of YAKUTAT

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February 15, 2018

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol – Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: HB 267/Release of Hunting and Fishing records to Municipalities

Speaker Edgmon,

The City and Borough of Yakutat supports the passage of HB 267 that gives municipalities affected, the access to guided hunt and guided sport fishing records for the purposes of verifying taxes payable to them.

As oil prices plummeted in recent years, the ability of the state to continue various state programs to assist communities around the state has been severely impacted. This is in addition to almost non-existent capital budgets over the same time period.

This has prompted municipalities such as ours to not only tighten our belts, but it is incumbent upon us to ensure our residents are fully compensated for the resources that are being harvested from our management areas or jurisdictions if you will.

To us it is a matter of fairness that we have access to these records to ensure compliance with our various ordinances. This will lead to additional revenues for a myriad of infrastructure needs in our towns and villages that the state can no longer afford to provide.

It is also a matter of fairness to the guides that are paying their fair share. By having these records we can level the playing field and capture significant revenue from those operators that have not paid their taxes due for one reason or another.

In addition, all records of this nature are strictly confidential and are punishable to the fullest extent of the law if violated.

Thank you for the opportunity to add these comments to the public record. Keep up the good work in the House.

Sincerely,


Jon Erickson,
City and Borough Manager
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cc: Rep. Andy Josephson, Chair, House Resources Committee