



February 7, 2011

Senator Lesil McGuire  
State Capitol Room 125  
Juneau AK, 99801

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 24**

Dear Senator McGuire:

The Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO) represents charter operators and lodges throughout the Southeast Alaska region. We are writing to you in support of Senate Bill 24—the Sport Fishing Guide Services Board.

We believe that a Guide Services Board would have the following positive effects on our industry:

- 1) The program will help to clarify the size and scope of our industry, the extent of its activity, and help to identify individuals or groups that seek to operate outside of regulation.
- 2) By thus identifying our industry, and with research we understand will be conducted through the program, the board will help to quantify the economic, and socio-economic value and impacts of our industry on Alaska's communities.
- 3) The Sport Fishing Guide Services Board will bind the industry into a cohesive group that can interact on a credible, influential level with state, federal, and international regulatory agencies.
- 4) The Board will have authority to regulate, if need be, the level of activity and effort in any given unit of its own definition, thereby protecting and preserving the viability of the industry and the investment of its participants. We understand that any development of regulation for the industry will be done in total transparency with input and influence by industry members and the public at large.

We give Senate Bill 24 our fullest support. Please let us know if there is anything further we can do to facilitate the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

Forrest Braden  
Interim Executive Director, SEAGO  
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