

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dear Representative Feige,

I'm writing thank you for sponsoring HB 229 and affirm the support of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association for this important bill. As the sitting president of the APHA and a lifelong Alaskan and second generation Registered Guide I know firsthand how burdensome unclear and, or, contradictory statutes and regulations can be. HB 229 will alleviate some of this burden by clarifying the relationship between Registered Guides when they work for each other and, at the same time, protecting the value of the Class A Assistant Guide license. The APHA also appreciates the creation of a retired, non-active, license so that respected, retired guides can stay licensed and not cut into fixed, retirement incomes. This is essential to maintaining the social continuity, of an industry that respects its elders and provides a career path that includes substantial time as an apprentice.

The APHA has always pushed for greater professional competency and accountability. For this reason we vigorously support giving the Big Game and Commercial services board the ability to suspend or revoke guide or transporter licensed for unprofessional behavior, moral turpitude and gross immorality. Having operators, representing themselves as guides, who are amoral or chronically immoral or unprofessional hurts our membership in a business that relies on reputation and word of mouth business. Alaska deserves to have the best and most ethical guides harvesting its big game resource.

In closing I want to once again thank the honored members or the legislature that have taken the time to consider HB 229 and carry it through the process on the behalf of me and my organizations livelihoods! I also want to state that many APHA members have spent their personal time advising and working on drafting HB 229 as recognition of the collaborated effort between your office and our membership. For the sake of brevity I have only used a few examples of the positive aspects of HB 229 but we do support the bill in its entirety.

Thank You,

*Gary LaRose*

Gary LaRose, President Alaska Professional Hunters Association