

Linda Hay

From: Wayne <args@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 12:16 PM
To: Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Cc: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: SB 190 and HB 229

Senator Menard and Senator Huggins,

Thank you for Sponsoring SB190. I've lived in Wasilla since 1984, got my registered guide license in 1986, started our family run business – Alaska Remote Guide Service in 1987, and upgraded my registered guide-outfitter license to master guide-outfitter status a few years back. To my knowledge, there have been no changes to the Big Game Commercial Service Board Statutes since 1994 or before. I think your bill and Representative Feige's HB229 help address some key issues in bringing the statutes current with several changes that have taken place since then in the guide industry. Most of us in the industry want to do what is right, but it is very hard to understand what that is, even after reading the statutes and regulations several times. In fact I was in a working group at the BGCSB meeting in Fairbanks two years ago, when we were discussing supervision and participation issues. Several guides were present along with some top level enforcement personnel. I think it's fair to say that all of us were at least some what confused about what was expected by us in the statutes.

I've been in attendance at every commercial service board meeting for the past several years, and worked in and led several committees that dealt with several issues in this bill. The key concerns that most interested me personally were 08.54.610 (d) and (e). The current requirement in 08.54.610 (e) (1) that the bill asks to delete, works fine for large operations that are lucky enough to have a lodge or main camp in the same Guide Use Area where they hunt. Everybody gets flown to the lodge to start with and then head out hunting from there. By so doing, this requirement has been met. In operations where the main camp or lodge is in a different guide use area or in many smaller operations, meeting this requirement can be a lot more complicated, and requiring the guide to do so can actually impact the quality of the client's hunt and the service that the guide is able to provide.

While the above mentioned points in the bill are my main focus, I fully agree with and support every provision that your bill deals with. I have spent a lot of personal time and effort to help get these issues put forward. As this bill moves forward, feel free to contact me concerning any questions or concerns that may arise, and let me know how I can help. Thank you again for you help!

Sincerely,

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