

Linda Hay

From: Thor Stacey <thorstacey@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 9:20 AM
To: Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep..Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Eric Feige
Cc: Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: HB 158 Public Testimony

Dear Resource Committee,

I'm writing to summarize the public testimony, thus far, on HB158 from the Alaska Professional Hunters perspective and make suggestions amenable to my group. This is a simple outline format. I can go into greater detail if I'm requested to do so.

Resident Hunters

- A vast majority of the HB158 supporters (approx. 85%) were concerned about resident hunter opportunity
- HB 158 Supporters clearly described the benefits of limiting guides to resident hunters
- Those **opposed** to HB158 offered zero input as to how the status-quo benefits resident hunters

Transporters

- Both those opposed and those in support of HB158 mentioned transporters as part of the problem of crowding
- Both those opposed and in support of HB158 approached this issue from the standpoint of guiding and transporters being competition
- Transporters **are** identified in the original problem statement brought forward by DNR

Demographics

- Support and opposition has been almost exclusively guides
- Long term operators and master guides were heavily in support of HB158
- A low percentage of the **opposition** to HB 158 could demonstrate a track record of success on State Land, instead focusing on their dreams and the alleged potential of their businesses as justification
- There was a strong support from **young guides** for a GCP

The APHA would like to make the following suggestion regarding transporters:

Direct the DNR to begin developing a management strategy, that will include public comment, similar to the process the GCP has gone through. With 7 years of development (the work done on the GCP should speed this process considerably), the GCP is an extremely well vetted and legitimate option for our state. **If we take the necessary step of addressing transporters with hb158, the APHA will only support this effort if it does not unduly burden resident hunters or restrict their access. The APHA has first hand experience with this process and it has taken 7 years of input and effort to support the GCP.** We believe that a viable plan can be achieved only if a robust public comment occurs. We support the effort to create a transporter management strategy, entirely, and look forward to helping adapt a workable program!

Please call or email me with any questions regarding the APHA's positions on HB158.

Regards,

Thor Stacey

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Thor Stacey
907 723 1494

Linda Hay

From: Cole Kramer <kodiakhunter19@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 7:43 AM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Cole Kramer
Subject: House Bill 158

Rep. Costello, Feige, Austerman, Herron, and Millett,

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 158. I strongly support this bill and the development of a Guide Concession Program.

My name is Cole Kramer and I am 29 years old. My Registered Guide License number is #1249. I am also a Professional Member of APHA.

As a young hunting guide, I am seriously concerned about my future and the future of guiding. Without a Concession Program to regulate the numbers of guides on state lands, I fear that continued overcrowding will force the Board of Game to continue to reduce nonresident opportunity which will in turn prevent me from operating a viable business on state lands.

Some guides have complained that this program will discriminate against younger guides getting into the business, however it is my opinion that without this program, there won't be a business left worth getting into on state lands. I have been an APHA member for almost ten years now, showing up to meetings at age 19. I have been the "young" guy at the meetings for years. I have always been in support of APHA opinions if it will be bettering our industry.

Thank you for your time & again for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Cole Kramer

Kramer's Kodiak Guide Service

#1249

Po box 1249

Kodiak AK 99615

Sent from my iPhone

Linda Hay

From: Scott Newman <seaguide@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 9:45 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Dan Saddler; scrabb_jt5146qaj@members.ebay.com; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Geran Tarr; "Rep..Chris.Tuck"@akleg.gov; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mark Neuman; "Rep. Bryce Edgmon"@akleg.gov; "Rep. Lindsey Holmes"@akleg.gov; "Rep. Mike Hawker"@akleg.gov; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg; "CHAIR: Senator.Cathy.Giessel"@akleg.gov; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; "Senator.Click.Bishop"@akleg.gov; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: DNR guide concession program
Categories: Linda

Dear Sirs,
I am a lifelong year-round resident of Petersburg. I have been guiding hunters for over 25 years. I take approximately 24 hunters per year and make 100% of my income from guiding. This income supports my family which in turn helps support this community in a much needed way. Even though I conduct my guiding operation on federal land, and I am permitted to do so, I fully support the DNR Guide Concession Program.

The one element that is responsible for successful guide operations on federal land is that guide permits are regulated, through numbers of permits and allocations. The guiding industry in Alaska has been in turmoil since October of 1989 when the Owsichuk decision was decided and allowed unregulated growth in the guiding industry. This has resulted in resource overharvest situations and significant conflict 'in the field' on state lands. This cannot be overstated. Anybody and everybody who qualifies to be a registered guide in Alaska can instantly conduct guiding on state lands to the detriment of the resource and the reputation of the industry.

Passage of HB 158 will regulate the guiding industry on state lands and help to restore wildlife populations on state lands. Alaska is literally giving away her wildlife to the detriment of the people who live here year round and support our communities. The success of the permitting on federal lands and the model of the guide concessions in Canadian provinces should be proof that HB 158 will be successful.

Please pass HB 158. The people and the wildlife of Alaska depend upon it.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Newman-Master Guide 157
Alaska Bear Guides LLC
PO Box 1348
206 Fram St.
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
www.alaskabearguide.com
907-723-1053

Linda Hay

From: Gus Lamoureux <info@alaskafishandhunt.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 3:45 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello
Subject: HB 158

Importance: High

Representative Mia Costello,

My name is Gus Lamoureux, I was born in Anchorage AK and I maintain a residential address at 3230 West 79th Anchorage. I have been involved in the guide industry for about forty years. My master guide license number is #M480. Guiding is a very large percentage of my income and we accommodate at least 26 clients per season. We used to take more clients but the dwindling Caribou population in Western Alaska which eventually went to a Tier II hunt also dwindled our client list.

I am writing in support of HB158. I think it is past time the State of Alaska initiates a guide program for State land. I know it will alleviate pressure from all the entities wanting to partake on State land hunts. I know it will bring back healthy game populations in some areas that are today over hunted. I know it will make the last frontier a more desirable destination for a non resident hunter. I guide exclusively on Federal Land and while in some cases the Fed's are not the greatest land holders at least your clients are guaranteed a little exclusivity without crowding. Almost all the clients I book ask what the land status is prior to booking a hunt. I could ramble on and on about the pro's of have a Federal area but the bottom line is that the State of Alaska needs to do something similar if we are to succeed in the big game hunting business. A business that brings a considerable amount of money into State coffers.

I encourage you to try to make this bill work and I would like to thank Mia Costello who is my Sand Lake representative for having the fore sight to sponsor this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Gus Lamoureux

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Linda Hay

From: Frank Bishop <frankabishopawa@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 10:41 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep..Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Rep. Les Gara; Sen. Fred Dyson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: HB 158

Honorable Alaskan Legislators,

My name is Frank A. Bishop . My guide license number is Master guide #191

My adress is PO Box 2491 Kodiak , 99615

I have guided on kodiak , and on the mainland for the past thirty years.

I do six to eight hunts each year. Guiding makes up to fifty percent or more of our income

I am asking you to vote in favor of HB158 because if we don"t we are going to see the continuing abuse of one of alaska"s most valuable resource our wildlife!

Thank You

Frank A. Bishop

Linda Hay

From: akg@gci.net on behalf of Scott McLeod <akg@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 5:41 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: Hb158
Attachments: My name is Scott McLeod.docx

My name is Scott McLeod . I live in Sitka Alaska. My guide # is 188.I have over 20 year guiding. Approximately 90 % of my family's income comes from guiding. I support HB158 it gives a go ahead for a guide system on state land. The overcrowding issue on the states land is a concern not only to guides but the resident hunter. It is apparent from conversation with public & guides that their experience in the field has diminished. And to solve some this problem would be to pass HB158 easing the pressures on resident hunter and better experience for guides & residents . Sincerely Scott McLeod

Linda Hay

From: Dave Morris <alaskahuntguide@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 9:41 AM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: Support of HB 158

Dear Representative Feige

I am writing today to express my **support of HB 158**, relating to the establishment of hunting guide concessions on Alaska public lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources, and perhaps subsequently those managed by the Bureau of Land Management as well.

I have been actively guiding here in Alaska for 30 years and currently hold Master Guide license #133. My guiding business has been my sole means of financial support for at least half of that tenure. I typically run an average of 10-12 hunters per season on a full time basis.

During my extensive career I have seen some drastic changes occur on State and BLM lands, none for the better, and all leading up to the current "mess" we are dealing with now. The sheer number of guides that have saturated most of the available and relatively unrestricted public land is shocking, and has destroyed many of the important aspects of the Alaska hunting experience that clients seek, as well as had a detrimental effect on the animals we pursue. Conflicts and diminished experiences are a common occurrence between competing camps and the number of trophy quality animals available for harvest has plummeted in many areas.

I have the added perspective of having also been operating on National Wildlife Refuge lands for the past 10 years. Those hunts are conducted under exclusive guide use permits, and I can attest that the difference in quality of experience and trophy class animals is significantly superior to that which occurs on any of the State and BLM land with which I am familiar.

Frankly, it is with much personal apprehension that I must voice my support of this more exclusive system proposed by DNR, not because of the concept, but due to knowing full well that I may not even prevail in obtaining a permit for myself, and could lose everything I have worked so hard for these past 30 years, since I cannot make a viable income from my Refuge permits alone, and I very much depend on those State camps to extend my season and target species characteristics unavailable on Refuge land. However, I know that I must look past these selfish concerns and stand behind what I know is best for the Guiding Industry as a whole...and even more importantly, what is best for the resource that we all depend on.

You will likely hear a great deal of negativity and witness significant resistance to this program from some of the guides out there, but please bear in mind that a high percentage of this guide element is the very reason that we have a problem today. Many of them lack any sort of ethics and readily disrespect established operators, creating conflict and a diminished experience for all. Naturally, a good many of them realize they have little chance of securing a permit due to past behavior or reputation, and would obviously prefer to leave things just as they are.

The problem is, leaving things as they are is what we have been doing for a good number of years and it is simply not working. By and large the most long standing, knowledgeable and respected names in this industry are in favor of returning to a "limited entry" type system in the best interest of providing better

quality hunts and protecting our most valuable wildlife resource. Their advice should be more seriously heeded.

There is a big problem out there and it needs to be addressed right now before it is too late.

I urge you to support HB 158 and help us take the first steps toward restoring the dignity that the Alaska guiding industry once had.

Respectfully,

David Morris Master Guide #133
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Linda Hay

From: Wayne <args@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: I support HB 158 and the DNR GCP
Attachments: Judiciary letter 3-14-13.doc

Representative Feige,

It was good to see you last week, although only briefly. I sincerely thank you for co sponsoring HB 158 and for all of your efforts to keep it moving. Thor Stacey showed me around and I got to see most of the Mat Su delegation as well as several others. I enjoyed meeting Representative Costello personally too. You people need the wisdom of Solomon to know what to do, but I sincerely feel a gcp is needed and tried to explain why in my letter to the judiciary committee attached above I'm sorry the letter is so long, but I heard a lot of questions while I was in Juneau and I tried to address as many as I could. I think the DNR GCP is a good start. If you have any questions what so ever, don't hesitate to ask, but my bear hunts do start April 1st, and I'll be gone a lot after that. I wish you, your staff, and your family a blessed and Happy Easter, and I wish you success on your efforts in Juneau.

Wayne Kubat

Alaska Remote Guide Service

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Phone/Fax:907-376-9568

Linda Hay

From: Wayne <args@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 1:54 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Lance Pruitt
Cc: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. David Guttenberg
Subject: I support HB 158 and the DNR GCP

March 17th, 2013

To The House Judiciary Committee: Chairman Keller, Vice Chair Lynn, Representative Gruenberg, Representative Foster, Representative LeDoux, Representative Millett and Representative Pruitt,

I anticipate that your committee will be hearing HB 158 in the near future, which would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish a Guide Concession Program (GCP) on state land. Thank you for all of your efforts on this important issue. **I hope you will support it and move it along speedily!!** There is no doubt in my mind that the currently proposed DNR GCP is a big improvement over the current status quo for guides - free, unregulated, unlimited, open entry - on state land. It will benefit Alaska's wild life resource, all resident hunters, the guide industry both young and old (but especially the young), and guided clients.

There are roughly 1400 licensed Alaska guides of various levels. About 550 of those are registered and master guides and can sign contracts them selves, but many of them don't. Last year, only 312 signed at least one contract. You have to be a registered or master guide to be a professional member of APHA. APHA'S professional membership averages about 125 per year or over 1/3 of the number who signed contracts last year. Further research in the past has shown that APHA professional members conduct 50 – 70% of the total number of guided hunts per year. The argument by the opposition that APHA doesn't represent the industry or that they represent less than 10% of the industry is entirely false. **APHA represents a majority of the guides that conduct the majority of the guided hunts in Alaska.**

In early February, APHA'S Board of Directors invited the entire professional membership to participate in a teleconference on the DNR GCP. It went on for several hours and 45 professional members were in attendance. Support for the latest version of the DNR GCP wasn't unanimous but was a very significant majority. As a result, the BOD voted unanimously to support the latest version of the DNR GCP, and subsequently supports HB 158.

My reason for supporting HB158, has nothing to do with setting up a monopoly for existing guides or keeping new or young guides out. Certainly you have heard that from some of those who oppose HB 158 and the proposed GCP. I

don't even oppose "part time" or "hobby guides". There are currently several federal concessions that only allow a few hunts, and with the 90 limited concessions (only 4 clients per year allowed) proposed in the GCP, there is considerable opportunity for those trying to get started or who only want to do it part time. **I do oppose letting a long time, important industry decline to the point that only "part timers" – some body who makes most of their living some other way and often uses guiding mostly to write off their boats, planes, gear and "other toys" – can afford to participate.** I feel that if "open and unlimited entry" continues on state land, that more areas will continue to go to drawing, and then large scale booking agencies will be in the driver's seat and not Alaska. The "luck of the draw" is certainly no way to run a business. Also, instead of competing for concessions based on experience and qualifications, guides will have to compete for representation by the big agencies with huge data bases to get hunters, because agency clients will get many if not most of the draw permits. The agencies will choose the guides they want to represent, and that could easily favor non resident guide-outfitters.

For most or at least many of us who support HB 158, the desired end result is more about "guide businesses being able to provide a quality experience for their clients that reflects well on Alaska" and "the guide industry remaining viable, credible, beneficial to Alaska's economy and residents, and able to exist far into the future" than "who the players are in the short term", even if it's not us.

While it will most likely require more effort initially to be able to guide on state land for all level of guides, I strongly feel that in the long term, the GCP will benefit the new registered guide trying to establish his own business, as much or more than any other segment of guides. **The new, young guide absolutely has the most to lose if the guide industry continues to decline,** because while many older guides will leave the industry soon, the new guy still has the potential for a 30 – 50 year career. It's important for credible guides who are committed to a profession in guiding, to be able to assure potential clients that they can indeed provide them a good experience. Many operators on state land can't honestly do that now, and many have already left state lands because of that. Also, the word is certainly out to many non resident hunters and outside organizations, to "beware" on state land.

Treating state land as an entitlement to anyone with a registered guide license, encourages more guide competition than our state land wild life resources can stand, and ultimately sets many new guides up for failure. Many new guides have gotten too big too fast, and incurred numerous negative consequences. Also, there are many instances of it reflecting negatively on Alaska and the guide industry as a whole. "Open entry" on state land has impacted Alaska's game resource and the hunt quality of multiple thousands of Alaska residents that hunt on state land. **The situation will only continue to get worse if we continue with status quo.**

Some guides say they don't have problems where they operate – now. Also some people hunt mostly bear and they have fewer issues than sheep and moose hunters. So if we just deal with the hot spots and sheep, then guess where all those that don't get what they want, will end up and what animals they will be guiding for. Some that already deal with permits think everyone should have to. I spoke to this earlier and want to avoid drawing permits.

Some guides say the DNR GCP isn't needed because non resident participation has declined. Well "Go Figure"! The Mulchatna Caribou herd has collapsed from 200,000 plus animals to almost nothing, and

moose populations in as much as 75% of Alaska have also declined during much of the last decade, due in large part to over predation. Recent predator control efforts are working but it will still be a long time before we get back to where we were in many places. Also, the national economy has been poor and many outside hunters are well aware of the excessive guide pressure that currently exists on many state lands in Alaska, and are going elsewhere. **If and when things improve, you can be sure that guide pressure will again exceed the supply of game animals in many areas if no changes are made now.**

300 or so registered and master guides are in disagreement over whether a guide concession plan will help or hurt their business, and guiding *is* a very important industry in Alaska and should be treated as such. **But - what about the health of our wild life resource? What about the multiple thousands of Alaskan Resident Hunters, and all residents?** Do you think they really want the state to continue to allow unlimited guide opportunities on state land so that more and more areas go to draw? If you take a look in any recent Board of Game proposal book, I think you will agree that the answer is no. You will find multiple proposals by resident hunters to eliminate or restrict non resident hunting and guiding opportunities.

I think DNR is the proper entity to manage land use and the board of game and the big game commercial services board should be consulted in their areas of expertise. Enacting the DNR GCP for guides now is like taking a big bite out of an apple. Trying to resolve transporter issues in the same bill at the same time would be like swallowing the whole apple in one bite, you'll end up choking. **I feel that trying to add transporters to this bill is just another attempt by the opposition to kill it by adding one more hurdle.** Addressing the transporter issue is certainly important ASAP, but needs to be done in the next bite, not now.

There was a joke circulating in the Midwest in the 70's and 80's about the Iowa farmer who went to prison for child abuse because he sold his son the family farm for 1 dollar. I know Chairman Keller has an agricultural background, and has probably heard and understands this joke. The short explanation is that after decades of stability, agricultural land prices in the Midwest tripled and quadrupled. Many bought heavily and then after a few years the prices crashed and many went broke. Similar circumstances occurred when the old guide use area system ended in the late "80's", and I feel a "crash" is close. I think the joke still "rings true" if you change "Iowa farmer" to "Alaskan Guide" and "family farm" to "guide operation on state land". And I would add that if "unregulated open entry guide opportunity" on state land continues, that before long, the joke will eventually apply to any guide operation in Alaska. I hope you pass and move HB 158 along speedily.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I'll do my best to answer promptly, except that I do have spring bear hunts starting April 1st.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat

PS: I have lived in Alaska for 37 years and hold Alaska master guide-outfitter license #147. I became an assistant guide in 1981, have lived in the Mat-Su Valley since 1984, got my registered guide license in 1986, and joined Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) that same year. I started my own guide business – Alaska Remote Guide Service in 1987 I served on the Mat-Su Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2007 and as chairman the last 4 of those years. **Two years ago, the Mat Su Valley AC did write a letter of support for the DNR GCP** and I think they would do so today as well. I also serve on the Board of Directors for APHA. I take between 8-12 fully guided hunts per year, split between single species and combination hunts and the average length is 11-15 days. Guided hunts account for about 70% of my total income per year.

Linda Hay

From: dennis harms <alaskatrophy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 3:46 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: Re: DNR Guide concession program

03-18-2013

Dear Honorable Eric Feige,

This letter is in regard to the importance of the "DNR Guide program".

The funding and implementation of the DNR Guide program is especially important to help the game populations rebuild, and the biggest beneficiaries are the subsistence and resident hunters as well as re-establish a professional guide system in Alaska.

At my age, I will see no personal benefit from the implementation of the DNR guide program, but I know that we must establish some sort of a program to protect the wild game resources of Alaska for subsistence users and residence users and to promote a system that rewards good stewardship of Alaska's game by Alaska guides.

The greatest losers of the Owsichuk decision in 1988 was not the guides, but was the wild game resources, the subsistence users, and resident sport hunters. This was predicted following the 1988 decision, and sadly it has come to pass.

In 1988 when Alaska went from one guide per area on State land, an area I am intimately familiar with, on the western slopes of the Alaska Range, was flooded with more than 20 guides in one area. The game population was transformed from a near Serengeti Plains of Africa to a population of less than 20% of the original population and a mature age population of game to 5% of what existed before 1988.

The two principal reasons for decline of game were lack of guide control and lack of effective wolf control. Other factors were weather and transporter drop offs.

The funding and implementation of the DNR guide program will help start the long healing process for Alaskan big game. With the DNR guide program and with some luck with the weather, and hopefully reasonable wolf control, subsistence and resident sport hunters may one day be able to visit the vast game populations that, from my research and personal experience, existed from the late 1890's through 1988.

Please seriously consider the implementation and funding of the DNR guide program solution. The winners will be the wild game of Alaska, the subsistence hunter, the resident hunter and a viable professional guide system.

Thank you,

Dennis Harms Alaska Master Guide #48

Linda Hay

From: James P. Jacobson <huntfish@ak.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 9:46 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Geran Tarr; "Rep..Chris.Tuck"@akleg.gov; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Mark Neuman; "Rep. Bryce Edgmon"@akleg.gov; "Rep. Lindsey Holmes"@akleg.gov; "?iso-8859-1?Q?Rep=2E_Cathy_Mu=F1oz?=@akleg.gov; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Harriett.Drummond@akleg.gov; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Pete Higgins; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Doug Isaacson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Beth Kertula; Rep. Johathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Lora Reinbold
Subject: Support for HB158

Dear Alaska State Representative, March 17,2013

By way of introduction, I am James P. "Jake" Jacobson, Alaska Master Guide #54.

I have lived in Alaska most of my life, coming to this wonderful state in 1967.

My winter address is PO Box 1313 (4010 Woodland Drive) Kodiak, Ak.99615

I began my guiding career in 1967 as an Assistant Guide, became a Registered Guide in 1972 and a Master Guide in 1984.

Although I passed the tests and am Certified to Guide in Game Management Units 6 through 26, I use two Guide/Outfitter Use areas in GMU 23 and one in GMU26.

I have also held a Transporter license and believe that GMU usage by Transporters should be limited to one, or certainly not more than three GMUs.

Nearly all of our guided hunts take place on foot from our family's deeded property. Under National Park Service regulations, we are limited to twelve (12) guided guests per year at our lodge, which sits on 80 acres of deeded Fee Simple land and is surrounded by the National Park Service. For any year in which we do not have 12 guest hunters, there is no carry over of guest numbers, i.e. if we have less than 12 hunters one year, we still can book only 12 hunters the next year. This rigidity does not take into account the vagaries of economics, luck in the Permit drawings and other factors. I believe that the state system should include a reasonable carry over.

Depending on our guest hunters success in the Permit Drawing, our family income from guiding varies from approximately 25% to 80%. Five generations of my family and I have been dependent on our guiding income for over four decades.

With stewardship of the land, fish, and game resources at stake as the ultimate objective, I believe passage of an act described in HB158 as:

“An Act authorizing the commissioner of natural resources to implement a hunting guide concession program or otherwise limit the number of individuals authorized to conduct big game commercial guiding on state land.”

... would be in accordance with Article 8, Sections 3 and 4 our Constitution and should be carefully drafted. It, like all laws, should be kept as simple and clear as possible.

Along with limiting Guides operating on State land - with appropriate stewardship ever in mind - Transporters, too, should be limited, not only regarding number of operators per given area, but also number of clients placed in each area. In GMU23, Transporter drop outs of both Alaskan and non-resident hunters has led to great stress with local residents, particularly in the Squirrel River area.

It is not my intent to unduly restrict resident hunters or year-round air taxis that fly people to bush areas of their own choosing, with their own camping equipment.

May the final bill be a true reflection of its title and augment effective stewardship of our resources.

I believe that attention should be given to the future of guiding in Alaska as a financially viable profession, not just a part-time or weekend pursuit.

My thanks to all you Alaskan Legislators and staff for the time spent and work done on behalf of the citizens of our Great Land.

Respectfully,

J.P. "Jake" Jacobson, [Tel:907/486-5253](tel:907/486-5253)

To maintain a united country, we must place common American nationality ahead of individual heritage. Our diversity did not make the U.S. great, our LIBERTY did.

Linda Hay

From: Wayne <args@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 10:11 AM
To: sean.parnell@alaska.gov
Cc: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Click Bishop; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Dan Saddler
Subject: FW: Big Game Commercial Services Board appointee

Governor Parnell,

I've been a registered guide since 1986 and have been active in all of the past guide boards. I was disappointed to hear that no one has been appointed yet to fill the guide seat on the Big Game Commercial Services Board that was vacated by former chair Paul Johnson.

I would highly recommend Michael Litzen for that position. He is very knowledgeable in the many aspects of guiding and transporting and the issues that face these industries. I've found him to take a very common sense approach to everything he takes on. He is also a very fine and hard working person, and a good friend. I think it will be very hard to find anyone more knowledgeable or better. I hope you fill the seat soon, and I hope you choose Michael Litzen.

Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat

Alaska Remote Guide Service

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Phone/Fax: 907-376-9568

Linda Hay

From: Kim And Jason Bunch <jkbunch@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 11:26 AM
To: Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; rep.kurt.olsen@akleg.gov; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck
Cc: jkbunch@acsalaska.net
Subject: HB 158 support

House Resource Committee Members,

I was online to provide testimony in support of HB 158, however was not given an opportunity to speak. Please find below the text of what was intended to be my verbal testimony:

My name is Jason Bunch Registered Guide #1311. I am a Professional Member of APHA and Big Game Guiding accounts for approximately 30% of my income. I strongly encourage you to support HB 158 and the development of a Guide Concession Program on State Lands.

I am a helicopter rescue swimmer for the US Coast Guard serving Alaskans since 1997. I have been guiding since 2006 and received my registered guide license in 2011. Instead of transferring from the state I have made the decision to get out of the Coast Guard to raise my family here in Alaska.

Although I am new to the guide industry I am not new to professionalism, integrity, respect or devotion to ones trade. It is these values that build a name, a successful business, and an industry. I have guided on state and federal land and have witnessed the value in limited user authorization. As a young guide just starting out and wanting to start my own business I want an area that sees limited commercial use. I want to know that for the next x amount of years I will be one of just a few users of a concession. With a GCP I will be able to discuss with a potential non resident client how many guides operate in my area and will not have to guess or cross my fingers. If I receive authorization to work a concession with another guide I will have to communicate with them and work to fulfill the responsibilities we owe Alaskans as public land users.

The potential to build a solid business plan using the states resources will be available to all professional guide/outfitters, young and old. If one cannot attain authorization they will be able to continue to grow as professionals, work for various guide/outfitters, learn the trade and eventually be successful with their own business.

The GCP has the potential to benefit long term conservation, guiding as a sustainable industry and continue to bring economic value to our state. It has the potential to aid resident hunters. I as a resident hunter will be able to contact just a couple of people and know what the exact intentions of the guide operations are in any given area. As one of the few authorized users of an area I will possess a higher regard for the expectations of land managers to be as professional as I can possibly be. I will be accountable as a public land user!

In just a few years I have attained a registered guide license, competed in my first federal prospectus, (of which I scored second in a highly competitive bid process on kodiak island) attained a seat on my local board of game advisory committee and am now writing an important letter to my legislators to help build our guide industry which will further provide the opportunity to grow and become successful as a professional.

Thank you for your time and consideration in support of HB 158 and on the most important issue for today's alaskan resources and outdoorsman both private and commercial.

Jason Bunch

Kodiak backcountry Adventures
Kodiak, Alaska
(907)654-4649
jkbunch@backcountry.com
www.backcountryadventures.com

Sent from my iPad

Linda Hay

From: Atlin Daugherty <akhomefire@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 2:18 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: HB158

Categories: Linda

Hello Mr. Feige,

My name is Atlin Daugherty I am a registered guide, a member of APHA, and do around eight guided hunts a year. I strongly support HB158. I am a young guide who will have a good future in the guiding industry if this bill passes. If this does not go through I don't see a long term future. I love guiding and I want it to be there for my son. Please pass this bill and give DNR the tools to allow this industry to have a long lasting viable future.

Sincerely,
Atlin Daugherty

Linda Hay

From: jkbunch <jkbunch@kodiakbackcountry.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 2:41 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; rep.kurt.olsen@akleg.gov; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck
Cc: jkbunch@acslaska.net; alan@alanausterman.com
Subject: HB 158 Support

House Resource Committee Members,

I was unable to provide testimony in support of HB 158 during the scheduled public testimony. Please find below the text of what was intended to be my verbal testimony:

My name is Jason Bunch Registered Guide #1311. I am a professional member of the APHA and big game guiding accounts for approximately 40 % of my annual income. I strongly encourage you to support HB 158 and the development of a Guide Concession Program on State Lands.

I have been a helicopter rescue swimmer for the US Coast Guard serving Alaska since 1997. I have been guiding since 2006 and received my registered guide license in 2011. Instead of transferring from the state to continue my career in the Coast Guard I have decided to leave the CG within the next few months and stay in Alaska to raise my family.

Although I am new to the guide industry I am not new to professionalism with integrity, respect and devotion to one's trade. It is these values that build a name, successful business and an industry. I have guided on State and Federal lands and have witnessed the value in limited user authorization. As a young guide this value could prove highly beneficial to the success of my own personal business. In short; this authorization will afford us the benefit of upholding the professionalism and integrity with non-resident hunters when providing a service. We will have the opportunity to work with other users within the same area to manage the hunting experience one expects and pays for. It will be imperative we communicate and work together to fulfill the responsibilities we owe Alaskans as public land users.

The potential to build a solid business plan using the states resources will be available to all professional guide/outfitters, young and old. If one cannot attain authorization they will be able to continue to grow while working for various guide/outfitters throughout the state, learn the trade and eventually be successful with their own business.

A GCP has the potential to benefit all users of State lands as well as long term conservation, elevate guiding as a sustainable industry and continue to bring economic value to our state. It has the potential to aid resident hunters; as a resident hunter myself I will be able to contact the limited number of guide/outfitters and learn the intentions of their guiding activities. This will provide me with valuable information as I plan my personal expeditions afield and allows us all to share the states resources more evenly. As one of the few authorized users of an area I will possess a higher regard for the expectations of land managers to be as professional as I can possibly be. I will be accountable to a much higher level than with the current program.

In just a few years I have attained a registered guide license, competed in my first federal prospectus (of which I scored #2 in a highly competitive bid process on Kodiak Island), attained a seat on my local board of game advisory committee and am now writing an important letter to my legislators concerning our guide industry which will further provide the opportunity to grow and become successful as a professional. This bill is one of the most important issues to date for Alaska's resources and outdoorsmen, both private and commercial.

Thank you for your time and consideration in support of HB 158,

Jason Bunch
Registered Guide 1311
Kodiak Backcountry Adventures
Kodiak, Alaska
(907)654-4649
jkbunch@kodiakbackcountry.com
www.kodiakbackcountryadventures.com

Linda Hay

From: Joey Klutsch <joeyklutsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Linda Hay
Subject: HB 158 testimony
Attachments: House Resource Committee Members.docx

Comittee Aid Hay,

I would like to viece my support for HB 158 and the DNR Guide Concessions Program. In the intrest of time, I have been advised not to publicly testify today, as there are already too many people signed up. Attached is a letter outlining what I had planed to say, had I testified.

Thank you for your time.

--

Joey Klutsch
Registered Guide
Katmai Guide Service

PO Box 222
King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 439-3030

House Resource Committee Members,

My name is Joey Klutsch and I am a second generation Registered Guide (RG 1277) and rural Alaska resident living in King Salmon. Guiding is my sole source of income and full time profession. I am also an active subsistence user and member of APHA. I am writing because I strongly support, and encourage you to support, HB 158.

It is essential that the DNR Guide Concession Program be implemented on state lands not only for the guiding profession, but for all user groups. I would like to emphasize that the DNR GCP will not eliminate any opportunity for resident hunters. Resident opportunity will only improve. Having fewer guides in a given area will reduce conflicts in the field with resident hunters and subsistence users. It will also lead to a better quality of experience for guided hunters.

In addition to alleviating in the field conflicts, the DNR Guide Concession Program will benefit the resource, which is by far the most important factor to consider. In too many areas on state land, overuse of the resource by an unlimited number of guides has resulted in stressed game populations. The DNR Guide Concession Program will go a long way toward solving this issue. We need only look at the Federal areas (FWS, NPS) of the State where guide concession programs are already in place to see how effective such programs are at solving all the problems which the DNR GCP is addressing.

Finally, the program will not make it impossible for new entrance into the guiding business by younger guides. It does not favor the "good old boy" generation of guides, as many people claim. It is just not the case. As a 27 year old Registered Guide I was able to successfully compete for and be awarded 2 National Wildlife Refuge Areas last year. I know other young guides who had similar successes. The process for being awarded these areas is highly competitive. To me, this is proof positive that if you are a young guide who is committed to the profession you will stand a great chance at being awarded a DNR Guide Concession Permit.

Thank you for your consideration and time. At stake is nothing less than the sustainable future of guiding and the health of all Alaskans wildlife resources.

--

Joey Klutsch
Registered Guide 1277
Katmai Guide Service

PO Box 222
King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 439-3030

Linda Hay

From: Joe Klutsch <joeklutsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 12:10 PM
To: 'Rep.Eric.Feige@akleg.gov'; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck
Subject: HB 158

House Resource Committee Memembers,

I am writing in support of HB 158. I have been guiding for 40 years now and during the course of my career I have seen the benefits of the guide concession programs that have been implemented on Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Preserve lands. Nearly all of the issues which the DNR GCP is trying to address have been solved on Federal lands where similar guide concession programs have been in place. These programs are remarkably effective.

There are many people out there that oppose the DNR GCP. They are afraid that because of the evaluation criteria they would be at risk of loosing the easy come and go access that they presently enjoy on state lands. Some people who oppose the DNR GCP are afraid that because of their past history of compliance, permit violations, fish and wildlife violations, and safety issues they will not prevail in securing a permit. Mostly, it is the unknown which so many of the guides opposed to the DNR GCP fear.

If you are a guide with a good history of compliance, then there is nothing to fear of the DNR GCP. It will only help. More importantly, it will benefit the resource which all Alaskans depend upon. It will also improve the quality of experience for guided hunters, and other users as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Joe Klutsch
Katmai Guide Service
Master Guide

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