

**Gary Zepp**

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**To:** Sen. Charlie Huggins  
**Subject:** RE: Guide.packer legislation SB190

**From:** Wildman [<mailto:wildmanlakelodge@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 6:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Charlie Huggins  
**Cc:** APHA Alaska Professional Hunter Association  
**Subject:** Guide.packer legislation SB190

Senator Charlie Huggins

Hello Charlie,

Gary "Butch" King, Master Guide, here.

I have been at it since starting as Lee Holen's campboy in 1966 at the Wrangell Mountain Lodge. I started at the bottom, stayed with a good operation, became a partner, bought the old man out when he retired, bought the neighbor out when he retired. After 39 years, sold one operation to a young couple coming up just as I did, not taking from others or asking the government for help or assistance, but working for what they have.

My wife and I are still working at it every waking day. I am still flying, guiding and providing a good tourism service that the State of Alaska should be proud of. Trained a lot of good men along the way. I have asked nothing from the State in return, but to be left alone! Have employed 20 to 50 Alaskans a year, paid hundreds of thousands in work comp, ESC, State DNR leases, Borough Leases, Borough Taxes, Dept of Commerce license fees and 45 year of hunting and fishing licenses. I do business with local stores, air taxis, vendors and service providers. Our family owned business brings roughly a million tourism dollars a year to the State of Alaska.

**I PAY MY BILLS AND HAVE PAID MY DUES!**

***It is now my turn to speak up!*** The State bureaucracy is taking its toll on this Master Guide and the rest of us who are just trying to bring simple tourism dollars to Alaska. We have asked nothing in return and have received nothing from the State except regulation on top of regulation, for decades. While this industry has employed thousands and brought in millions, we have received nothing, yet ask for nothing! Not a penny of Alaska's huge tourism budget goes to promote hunting or even guided sport fishing for that matter. Yet we are happy to just continue to do it our own!

Just tell Juneau to quit making more laws that make it even more difficult than it already is for us to operate in Alaska's most remote outposts. Juneau does not seem to understand that we Alaskan Guides and Outfitters are in a competitive industry! Canada, Mexico, Africa and even Russian, Kajikastan and China have become more attractive than Alaska to the hunter who travels. Again, guides and outfitters, as Alaska's original form of tourism ask nothing from the State other than quite making our job more difficult!

I appreciate your sponsoring this important SB 190. New entries and youngsters **MUST** have a place to start, if our industry is to survive. The State has made it so unreasonably difficult and overly expensive for even the most qualified candidate to become come an assistant guide that our labor pool has all but diminished. Everyone cannot start at the top, we must provide opportunity to enter at the bottom of the ladder and work your way to the top. Or is that concept totally lost in todays world?

Keep up your good work and spread the word.

Sincerely,

Gary "Butch" King - Master Guide

[www.wildmanlodge.com](http://www.wildmanlodge.com)

[www.WildAlaskaHunting.com](http://www.WildAlaskaHunting.com)