

Senator Coghill,

I would like to thank you for sponsoring SB 160. The DNR Guide Concession Program is crucial to the future of a sustainable guiding industry in Alaska, something which is in jeopardy on state lands right now. As you know, there is much opposition to this program. What opponents of the program fail to realize is that it benefits not just guides, but all user groups, including subsistence hunters and general resident hunters. The DNR GCP will help create sustainable jobs for many Alaskans, and will ensure quality guided hunts on state lands. Most importantly, the DNR GCP will benefit the wildlife itself. As Alaskans, that should always be our number one concern.

As a year round Alaska resident in a small town who relies on guiding for all of my income and a subsistence user, I greatly appreciate your efforts in sponsoring this bill. I have seen firsthand the differences between guiding on state lands and federal lands. It is like comparing night and day. The guide area systems on federal lands (USF&W and Park Preserve) have ensured good stewardship of the land and animals, something that is so desperately missing from state lands at this time. The DNR GCP will rectify this problem.

It is sad to see the present condition of guiding on state lands, and with it the negative experiences for everyone using those lands. I know that with some solid effort, we can easily turn things around, benefiting everyone, especially our amazing wildlife resources.

Thank You again for your efforts.

With Best Regards,

Joey Klutsch

Registered Guide 1277