

From: Phil Byrd  
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 12:12 AM  
To: Sen. Fred Dyson  
Subject: SB 160

Dear Senators

I am righting this letter in reference to HB 158 and SB 160 to let you know some of the truths about what is REALLY going on. I will try to keep this to the point and to hit the high spots but there still are lots of facts that need to be addressed.

- MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS WHY THE MEETING ON FRIDAY MARCH 14TH IS BY INVITAION ONLY!!  
IM SURE THAT THE ALASKA PROFESIONAL HUNTERS ASOCIATION OR THEIR LOBBIEST WILL HAVE AN INVITE TO THE HEARING AND THAT THEY WILL BE TESTIFYING THAT THEY "REPRESENT THE GUIDE INDUTRY" I ALSO BET THAT NO ONE THAT WAS INVITED WILL BRING UP ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS OR BE OPPOSED TO IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Neither DNR F&G or the BOG have EVER polled the guide industry to see how many people were for or against the Guide Concession Program (GCP)  
The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APAHA) is asking all its members to lie in letters testifying that ALL the guide industry wants this plan implemented, this however can not be true due the fact that there has never been a poll asking.

- DNR has worked on this for 8 years and EVERYONE agrees that the last prospectus (the outline that we have to go by to write our proposals) is not even close to workable, but yet the want to push it trough even though we will not see the final draft from DNR until the GCP is implemented. APHA says, "lets push it through and if we don't like it, then we will the squash it!!"

I feel that anything worth doing is worth doing right the first time and if we are going to spend the states money it needs to be spent in the very best way possible!!

- The big question is if the GCP is implemented whom is DNR going to put on a panel to judge our proposals????

The National Park Service and United States Fish And Wildlife Service already have a Guide Concession Program on their lands, and you would not believe how flawed their system is. For example last year most of all the USFWS areas were up for new proposals, I personal know of 4 cases where a guide that had never even stepped foot in the area that he was applying for won over a guide that had been there for years. The winning guides did this by knowing what to write and by cutting the animals they proposed to hunt WAY down because the NPS and USFW believe that "LESS is MORE" which bring me to another point.

It is not legal for DNR to allocate the number or species of animals to be harvested in ANY area, and Fish and Game said that they want NO part in the allocation of the states game.

What this means is that someone that has never stepped foot in the areas that I guide in could propose that he will walk into the area vs. fly and only take 1 caribou hunter and no bear hunters and he will

score higher than I would, even though the local village has asked me to help with the bear population and to not hunt the sensitive areas for the migrating caribou. I am the only one that knows this because I work closely with the local village, but DNR has no idea.

DNR also claims that the Guide Concession Program is based on resource management, how can this be true if NO ONE will allocate the game.

Also there are no regulations for the transporters or air taxis (business's that drop off unguided hunters resident and non resident alike).

What does this mean?

Well let's say I write my proposal for an area knowing that to current moose population will allow for a sustainable harvest of 4 moose per season and all of a sudden a transporter flies into the area and drops off 25 non resident moose hunters, as a good steward of the land I would not have any moose to hunt the following season because the unregulated transporters dumped 25 hunters into an area that could only handle 4 moose being harvested.

For a program like to work EVERYONE the licensed by the BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD HAS TO BE ON AN EVEN PLAYING FIELD!!

So now I bet you are asking why are the TRANSPORTERS not going to be regulated??

That is simple, they provide transportation for the RESIDENT hunters also and there is NO WAY that limiting resident access is going to fly and IT SHOULD NOT FLY the residents do come first. Everyone that is pushing the GCP knows this that is why nothing has been done to try to regulate TRANSPORTERS, but with out regulating them, the guides are the ones that are stuck holding the bag!!!!!!

This brings me to another point, the over crowding issues. I will use the North East Brooks Range for a great example, all the land is USFWS land where currently the Federal Guide Concession already exist. What that means in that all the land is currently in exclusive guide area (only one guide per area) yet you hear resident hunters crying about overcrowding but it cannot be from guides because only one guide is allowed per area. So all the HYPE about the guides being the cause of over crowding is complete BS.

I have no problem with a Guide Concession Plan but I want one that will WORK and solve the so-called issues that we have.

- Alaska already has the Board Of Game that is responsible for the game management of the Alaska's game population, why are they not already doing something to solve the problem. APHA also asked all its members to write letters in support of the 2 bills testifying that we were ALL were good STEWARWDS of the land. Well I fully believe that a lot of us are but a lot of people are saying that if these bills don't pass then some animals are going to a permit drawing with a 10% non resident allocation and there is no way we can make a living on 10 %, well that's not true and has been proven all over the state. If the people pushing this were GOOD STEWARDS of the land they would be the first ones BEGGING the BOG to limit the harvest of the animals that are in decline instead of trying to exploit the resource for financial gain.
- Have you been told that there will be appeals to from the people whom did not win a concession??? Where will the money come from that it's going to for the appeals???

- DNR said that it is going to allot 2.5 hours per proposal. How will they be able to verify the information in the proposal in that time???? Would you like for your whole lively hood to hinge on a panel of people that know nothing about your job to decide your fate in 2.5 hours???
- The Alaska Professional Hunters Association only has about 100 contracting guides as members and as of last year there were 400 contracting guides in the Alaska!!!!!!  
They do not represent the Whole guide industry.

This is just a few of the points that you need to be aware of!!!!

Please know all the facts before you vote on a bill that will affect so many people!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Phil Byrd Registered Guide 1291

Capt. Phil Byrd