

From: Gary Gearhart
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: HB 161 Governor's Tags

Senator Giessel,

As President of the Alaska Chapter Safari Club International I am requesting your support for HB 161 Governor's Tags. This bill has just passed the House on a vote of 30 to 5 and will be heard by the Senate Resource Committee on Friday, March 21, 2014.

You will note that the bill has no fiscal note because there isn't any negative impact on the ADF &G budget. In fact right now most of the permits available under current statute aren't being used, and the ones that are bring in far more money to the Department than would otherwise be realized in the regular drawings the State conducts. We firmly believe that this legislation will increase revenues to the State. The Governor's Permit is already statute. HB 161 merely makes a few amendments to current language.

Last of all this legislation will not create a subsidy for any of our non-profits as the funds are restricted and can only be used on agreed upon projects between the non-profit and the Dept. for Conservation, conservation education and fish and wildlife protection. While the bill does increase the amount a qualified non-profit can keep (30% vs. 10%), it also requires the non-profit to consult with the Dept. and get an approved conservation project before any funds get spent. Basically that means if any of this money has match possibilities, we will still realize that match. Furthermore, unless a permit is granted, the permits granted under the general draw system produce no funds for the Dept., so there really can be no loss of revenue. Therefore, when a non-profit receives a permit and sells it for \$10,000, at the very least the Dept. would have \$7000 to use for a match and would gain money.

I would appreciate your favorable consideration for this bill when it comes to a vote.

Thank You,

Gary A. Gearhart
President
AK Chapt. SCI