

**From:** Thor Stacey

**Sent:** Monday, March 03, 2014 1:22 PM

**To:** Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. John Coghill; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Pete Kelly; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Bert Stedman

**Cc:** David Scott; Linda Hay; Trevor Fulton; Vivian Stiver; Charles Guinchard; Chad Hutchison

**Subject:** SB160/HB158

Dear Legislators,

I don't often send emails addressed to more than one legislator. However I thought I would pass along some information regarding HB158 and SB160.

**The Alaska Professional Hunters Association maintains strong support for the State to have the authority to limit the number of Big Game Guides on its lands.**

The legislature needs to act to affirm this authority and provide funding for the drafted Guide Concession Program by passing SB160 or HB158.

If the legislature does not act, as it failed to do in the early 90's, the **BLM** will act to limit the number of guides on its land because of the issues identified in the attached Unit 23 working group letter.

If the **BLM** moves forward, Alaska will give up its authority to yet another Federal agency. **The BLM** has stopped their scoping process pending the outcome of this session!

Alaska's hunting guides are already suffering from "Dual Management." Most of you are aware that USFWS shutdown their refuges this fall during the middle of bear season the the Alaska Peninsula and threatened the Kodiak season as well. This was a terrible situation that caused real financial losses to Alaska's guide businesses. Federal Management of Hunting Guide Concessions has a fore-gone conclusion at the end, one that will ultimately block access to a valuable, sustainable resource for Alaskan's, especially rural Alaskans.

Had the Legislature acted at the courts request in the 90's, we wouldn't be in this mess.

[http://m.newsminer.com/opinion/community\\_perspectives/solution-appears-in-dispute-over-guided-hunts/article\\_2e14d122-9b67-11e3-9c81-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm](http://m.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/solution-appears-in-dispute-over-guided-hunts/article_2e14d122-9b67-11e3-9c81-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm)

How many issues are before you where one of the main commercial interests is coming forward as saying "we are hurting the resource and the surrounding social climate, please regulate us..." I would say, not many.

There are many parallels to this issue and that of the Kenai River. Over and over responsible Kenai Guides have asked to be regulated, based on stewardship concerns, crowding,

environment and resource stress. Over and over these efforts were stopped by "free market, let the Board of Fish "manage," ADF&G says there is no resource problem" arguments. Now what? There are still plenty of guides, just no fish (especially big ones) and everybody (real estate, local businesses, fishing guides, the fish, residents fisherman, BOF, Legislators) is suffering.

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association recognizes that too many hunting guides hurt ALL users. While we are guides, we are also Alaskan Residents. While we have enough regulations and plenty of government in our lives and businesses already, we see limiting the number of guides as ultimately requiring less regulations on balance (a lot of the Board of Game's problems stem from unlimited numbers of guides on State Land and trying to draft regulations to treat the symptoms, without being able to address the problem).

A guide license should not be an entitlement to a hunting area and the ability to profit off of a commonly owned resource. Under today's status-quo, it is.

Kind Regards,

Thor

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