

**From:** Tim Booch [<mailto:booch@ptialaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:03 PM  
**To:** Sen. Charlie Huggins  
**Subject:** SB 160 Public Testimony

Honorable Legislators

My name is Tim Booch. I am a 31 year resident of Alaska and I hold Master Guide/Outfitter license 176. I have been awarded a 10 year USFW joint use Commercial Big Game Guiding permit in the Izembek national Wildlife Refuge on Unimak Island in the eastern Aleutian Islands 3 separate times through the Federal competitive Prospectus process. I also have 2 Commercial Recreational Use Land (lease) permits with DNR that I have maintained since 1996. Three of the six big game species that I offer guided for are allocated through a limited drawing.

I do not support the APHA/DNR GUACP. This proposed plan will benefit a few individuals and hurt many small Alaska family guide business. Until this year I was a member of the APHA and had been since 1998. I dissolved my membership in the organization this year after the complaints that I brought to the Board of Directors of the APHA, concerning the unethical conduct of two high profile professional members during the previous fall hunting season, were ignored.

There has never been a membership wide poll conducted by the Board of Directors of the APHA that would accurately reflect the consensus of the membership on this issue. There is NO logical justification to adopt this complicated, costly, ineffectual, and unfair "taking" when the record is clear that we can alleviate the problems with a time tested, publicly endorsed, limited drawing permit allocation system and an honest and responsible BOG and BGCSB.

Even though the Kodiak brown bear sport hunting community had a long history of cooperation between all of the shareholders in the culture, and there had long been established a fair and logical percentage allocation to residents and nonresidents, there were still issues and problems that related to the application guidelines. Due to the spirit of cooperation that exists here, and as the result of fine leadership, those problems and issues were solved by this interaction of concerned parties and by the adoption and implementation of the "Kodiak Model" brown bear drawing permit guidelines that are in place here.

This action set the precedent for the allocation of the big game sport hunting species in all present and future drawing permit allocations in the state. The BOG through the open public input process took testimony from Alaska Fish and Game personnel [and their legal counsel], a broad range of other participants in the Alaska big game guide industry, Alaska residents, and the local Citizens Advisory Committees from other similarly effected areas. As a result of the adoption of the Kodiak Model and this being implemented in two other high profile areas and for a couple of other very much coveted big game sport hunting game animals, Koyukuk Alaska Yukon moose and Copper River Bison, this objective and logical system of allocation was adopted to mirror the Kodiak Model and it has provided sport hunters with same quality of the hunting experience.

Since the adoption and implementation of these precedent setting guidelines there have been a number of proposals submitted to the BOG requesting that they adopt the same limited drawing guidelines found in the "Kodiak Model" to solve the problems in their areas. The APHA/DNR GUACP has dominated the BGCSB agenda for the past 8 years. Since then nearly all of the proposals submitted to the BOG, requesting that the "Kodiak Model" of allocating drawing permits be implemented, have been denied, with the exception of the two areas mentioned earlier in this memo. The main justification given by the BOG for their refusal to adopt these proposals is that the APHA/DNR GUACP plan would solve all of the problems that are indetified in these proposals.

This statement is simply a purposeful disinformation strategy being perpetuated by the handful of proponents of this plan. Even if this plan was implemented the BOG will adopt a limited drawing permit allocation where ever multiple guides compete with residents for “guide required for nonresidents” big game species. All of my fellow guides who conduct guided sheep hunts in Alaska want a fair and equitable drawing permit allocation guideline like the Kodiak Model.

The question is this. Will the time tested, fair and equitable, fully vetted, and precedent setting “Kodiak Model” drawing permit guidelines be implemented or will the BOG continue along their current path to destroy the guide industry by implementing the potentially precedent setting “up to 10%” nonresident drawing permit allocation as they have done in the Delta sheep sport hunting area. This allocation provides away for the residents to be awarded ALL of the permits that are allocated for the area and the guides would have nothing.

DNR, and the Governor, should not have allowed themselves to be manipulated by a minority voice in the Alaska guide industry and the public at large should have not allowed them to be manipulated either. The only fair and equitable, simple, and cost effective way to immediately solve the exaggerated problems is by using the established method provided by the public input process of the BOG, implement the special distribution of camps as it has been accomplished on the Alaska Peninsula and be willing to provide a public forum that will facilitate the inclusion of ALL of the shareholders in this issue.

The BGCSB, with the support of the BOG, must regulate the transporter industry NOW! The main contributors to the highly exaggerated overcrowding problem, that actually only exists in a few easy access areas in the state, are the few under regulated, unethical, and greedy guides and transporters, and the unregulated and few in numbers, unethical and greedy resident hunters that have no ethical standards in regulation that have any real legal consequences.

**Following is a synopsis of the facts that exist, and of the alternatives that are available, when considering the APHA//DNR GUACP and as you evaluate SB 160 and HB 158.**

Please allow the Alaska State Troopers, the BGCSB, and the BOG to perform the critical duties that they were created and funded to do. Please recognize that all of the agencies tasked with protecting and enforcing the Public Trust, and the various commercial service providers whose duty it is to represent strong stewardship of the industry and culture, could facilitate better relations in the public and with their fellow sport hunters in the field by agreeing to dedicate themselves to the task of being public servants and enforcing the regulations and the maxims of hunting ethics that do exist now and that have existed for along time but are not being enforced or encouraged.

**Eliminating the DNR 14 day Commercial Recreational statewide tent camp Permits, and requiring commercial operators to designate their camps, pay their performance bonds, and have accountability for their operations plan is a priority that should be demanded now. DNR Registered camps have historically been issued on a first come, first serve basis and should continue this way. The spatial distribution of commercial camps, and the corresponding reduction in guides operating in the area, has been the result of the precedent setting BGCSB regulation that has been implemented in all of GMU 9 (Alaska Peninsula) and that was intended to, and in fact has, preserved the quality of the sport hunting experience.**

Guides who have maintained this kind of camp, and have exhibited their stewardship and their ability to be dedicated conservationist, have also helped maintain the strong ethics of the big game sport hunting culture that sport hunters should be proud of. They have helped enforcement by establishing where their camps are so

that the Troopers can economize their time in the field and not be in the unenviable position of being perceived to be disrupting the quality of the wilderness sport hunting experience by flying around looking for the few bandits with 14 day statewide permits

.Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to express the valid points that I have introduced here to you in this memo opposed to being restricted to a 2 minute sound bite. Your thoughtful consideration of these statements, and your respectful and responsible response to them, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Tim Booch

Aleutian Islands Guide Service