

**From:** Donald Quarberg

**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2014 4:51 PM

**To:** Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Gary Stevens

**Subject:** SB 160 SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Don Quarberg, a 38 year resident of Delta Junction. I am not now, nor ever have been a guide and have no aspirations of becoming a guide.

I listened to the public testimony on this bill yesterday (3/19/14). I have never had a negative encounter with a non-resident hunter in all the years I have hunted in the Interior. However, as the number of guides increases and the ever increasing competition among them to acquire game animals for their clients, I feel that we definitely need the guide concession program on State lands. I am familiar with a number of the guides that testified and in my opinion those in favor generally are the more reputable guides (less prone to the rape and pillage syndrome).

It was encouraging to hear the young guides state their support and also feel that they have an opportunity to obtain a concession. The last thing that State should do is create a welfare program out of our game resources - we do not have to provide all those folks wanting to be a guide with a concession. We can establish a fair evaluation system to award concessions to the better guides in the industry,. and that is exactly what we should do.

I think one of the major faults with the DNR Guide Concession Planning Process, has been their reluctance to allow anyone with guiding experience (a retired Master guide for example) to provide practical input into the development of that program. I don't see how they can design something without the practical advice of the industry.

Two criticism that have been made numerous times over the past several years, is that there is no opportunity for a guide to pass along their guiding operation to another individual (ex: father to son, even though the son have been an integral part of that guide business). That should receive serious thought by this legislature.

Another criticism is that there is currently no restriction on air transporters or air taxi operators as to the number of clients they may deliver to a hunting area. On one occasion I flew for one minute in a Super Cub down Delta Creek and passed 9 hunting camps all flown in by our local air taxi. Fortunately, this air taxi is no longer in the area.

First of all, if an air taxi transports hunters or their provisions, including game animals, they should be required to become a transporter. Remove the incidental use provision from the current law. If I hunt for 1 minute or 1 year, I have to have a license, they should too, there's nothing incidental about it. Requiring a transporter license adds a level of ethics to the hunting industry as Transporters must meet certain requirements to be certified and report certain activities. This is useful information in the management of our game resources and not an overburden to the transporter.

Kindly pass this bill and work with the Industry to provide the best guides with the opportunity to serve the public. Thank you! Don Quarberg