

Linda Hay

From: John Rydeen <westby13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 7:53 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rpresentative.Alan.Austerman@akleg.gov; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep.Dan.Sadler@akleg.gov; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rp.Peggy.Wilson@akleg.gov; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Neal Foster; Rp.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov; Rep.BobLynn@akleg.gov; Rp.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov; Rp.Max.Gruenberg@akleg.gov; Rep. Bill Stoltze

Members of the Legislature,

My name is John Rydeen. I live at: 1945 N Belmont Ave Palmer, Ak 99645. This letter is in response to HB158. As a young registered guide (#1269), this legislation would help outfitters like myself get a start. I have guided in Alaska for 13 years. I guide full time in Alaska which is not the whole year. However, guiding makes up about 70% of my income for the year.

Having a guide concession area on state land would bennefit the whole guiding industry as well as the game. It would give opportunity to young guides and outfitters like myself, and prolong the outfitting industry in this state.

Thank you,

John Rydeen

Linda Hay

From: don duncan <apgs@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 11:44 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Cc: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: DNR Guide Concession testimony 3.18.13

Dear Legislators;

I was listening to Roger Skogen, Bobby Larson and Nick Johnson testify before you Wednesday afternoon. I thought you should know the rest of the story.

Roger said one outfitter killed 25 moose one year and cleaned out the area and left. Not true. 3 guides, myself, Aaron Kulis and Bob Wener killed about 25 moose one year. Our camps where we killed the moose the local residents never get to. Mine was a fly in camp and Bob and Aaron's camps are very far up river where the locals running prop boats do not get to. Bob did leave soon there after because there were fewer moose and Aaron went bankrupt when a spring flood destroyed his new boats and motors. The fewer moose was not from our hunting but wolf predation. When the caribou crashed and left an over abundance of wolves they had nothing left in the area but moose to prey upon which they did. The wolves wiped out the moose in all the headwaters and upper tributaries over the years of 2003-2004. F&G and the BOG refused to address concerns of over abundance of wolves for 10 years, concerns voiced by the villagers and guides. I was able to squeak by because my camp is the lowest on the river and closest to the village which is 34 miles down river. My camp site is where most prop boats have to turn around if they can make it that far. The denser brush, wider valleys and some home grown wolf control in the winter by a few of the villagers saved the moose from my camp and down river.

Nick said the guides were on the Nushagak and Nuyukuk. Of course we are. What he did not say was that from the upper end of private Village and Corporation lands, there is at least 200 river miles down river through 3 villages and to Dillingham. The moose population is far better, in fact abundant, throughout the private lands area. My camp is nine air miles up river from the nearest block of private land. Nick also said that the brown bear season opens the same day, August 20, that the local resident moose season opens. This is true. And frustrating for both of us to some degree, particularly on the Nuyukuk River which typically only has one channel. We are drifting or sitting and waiting for a bear to step out and grab a fish and they are running up and down the river trying to catch a moose standing on the bank. I do not feel that we are scaring the moose away since we camp near where we hunt. It is common practice for many villagers to shoot at bears on site regardless of season or location. My hunters moose season opens Sept. 5, some 15 days later. We have donated moose meat to both Bobby and Roger.

I am sure some of the villagers would like to see all guides out of the area. But the fact is that guides/guided hunters are responsible for 80% of the reported brown bears harvested in this area. And considering that most of the guides in this area are not operating anywhere near where the locals hunt, the supposition that there is crowding or conflicts to any great degree is unfounded. Since 2005, there has been an average of 25 non-resident moose hunters along the river corridors even though the registration hunt allows 75 permits. And most of those 25 permits are used where 95% of the locals do not go. But Nick and Roger have up river cabins they hunt from.

I would like to also make one correction to a previous letter. I said that APHA voted 5-4 to continue to support the GCP. That was the sentiment before APHA whipped their Board of Directors into shape before the "Official" and unanimous vote.

If you have begun to wonder why so many guides who operate on Federal lands, usually exclusive areas, are so strongly in favor of the GCP on State lands, it is because the Guide Use Area is not exclusively Federal lands in some, maybe many cases. They want it all. For next to nothing.

While the DNR GCP application looks simple and reasonable, it is neither. Those guides do not win the Federal areas with out help. And they have a law firm out of Washington DC that they hire to challenge the scoring if their members are not selected. And the law firm seldom loses the appeal. Lawyers and professional prospectus writers are being and will be hired. Is that what we want?

Please do not pass HB 158. I fear we will all be hiring lawyers and get nowhere. Save us all the trouble. The DNR's GCP is not fixable and not reasonable.

Sincerely;

Smokey Don Duncan Master Guide #136 who actually operates exclusively on State lands.

299 Alvin St.

Fairbanks AK 99712

907-457-8318

apgs@gci.net

Linda Hay

From: Richard Guthrie <n8484q@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 8:45 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: HB 158

Dear Representative Feige,

I am writing today to ask for your support for House Bill #158, which would authorize the Alaska DNR to implement a Guide Concession Program on State Land.

I am a long time Alaskan who has been involved in Guiding since the mid 1970's and have held a Registered Guide's License since 1978 (Currently Master Guide #94). I have conducted guided hunts in Alaska for 35 years and prior to the Owsichek Decision held 3 Guide Use Areas under the old State Guide Area system. I currently utilize 3 Guide Areas where I conduct hunts on Federal and Private land as well as State land.

Currently, the situation on State Land could only be viewed as chaotic. Particularly, in locations where hunting for Moose, Sheep and Bears is productive the areas are virtually overrun with guides. The problems created by this situation are not just limited to the guides and their Non-Resident clients but Residents suffer as well. In fact, the ramifications for Residents may be far worse than what the Guides and their Non-Resident clients face.

A system for allocation of Guide Use Areas on State Land is long overdue. Truthfully, some type of system which would have satisfied the guidelines of the Owsichek Decision should have been instituted as soon as possible after that decision. However, that did not happen and today we have reached a point where to do nothing is no longer an acceptable option. Frankly, to allow the chaotic situation, with regard to guiding on State Land, to continue would be a dereliction of the duties of those in State Government who are charged with the oversight of Alaska's Lands and Wildlife.

I list below some of the detrimental results from unregulated access to State Land for the purpose of Guiding:

1. Ever increasing pressure on Alaska's Wildlife resources.
2. Increasing numbers of Alaska Game Board Regulations which will shorten seasons and impose Drawing Permit requirements in additional areas where pressure is to great. This is already happening and the downside is as great or greater for Residents than it is for Non-Residents.

3. Conflicts between all user groups, not just Non-Residents but Residents as well, will continue to increase.

4. Alaska's reputation as a "World Class" hunting destination will be further tarnished. Alaska's reputation has already suffered in this regard!

5. The ability to sustain a viable guiding business on State Land will eventually become impossible. Every year more individuals obtain Guide Licenses. With access to Federal and Private land strictly controlled, it is inevitable that State Land will become even more saturated than it is now.

I hope you will consider the long term ramifications of unlimited access for guiding on State land and realize that it unsustainable and detrimental to all user groups. Residents, Non-Residents, Sport Hunters, Subsistence Hunters and even Non-Consumptive users all suffer under the current unregulated situation.

Quite frankly, I feel that anyone in the Guiding business who opposes a system of well regulated access to State Land certainly can not have the well-being Alaska's Wildlife resources in mind.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard Guthrie, Master Guide #94

Linda Hay

From: Keegan McCarthy <akpointer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 4:19 PM
To: thorstacey@gmail.com
Subject: HB 158- Please Read

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Keegan McCarthy, I am a registered hunting guide, license number 1061, based out of my home town of Juneau, Alaska. I was raised in Juneau, and am proud to be operating as a hunting guide in SE Alaska for nearly 12 years. My wife, our newborn son and I rely solely on my guide income, and we offer hunting opportunities for up to 30 non-resident hunters each year for black bear, brown bear, deer and mountain goat. I have worked very hard to create and maintain this business, which was my lifelong dream.

In 1999 I was working as an assistant guide for a Master Guide outside of Lake Illiamna, AK. As I sat with my client, glassing the Mulchatna Flats looking for caribou, I counted 7 tents within 2 miles of where we were hunting. My client looked over at me "wow, real Alaska wilderness experience". I felt my heart sink, this was not the Alaska I wanted to share. This is the not Alaska where I grew up. The son of an ADFG Wildlife Biologist, I had spent my entire life exploring remote Alaska, knowing from a young age I wanted to be a hunting guide and share the wild places our great state is known for. I did not want to explain to my client that he had just flown thousands of miles and spent a great deal of money to compete with other guides on state land for his chance at a caribou. In those days we tried as hard as we could to create the illusion of being alone in the wilderness, with no regulation on how many guides could operate on state land, there were times we had planes nearly land on our tent. I was disgusted, no matter where I went to work there was competition for hunting areas. After a few years working in western Alaska, I hung up my hat, thoroughly dissuaded with the Alaska dream of being a guide. Luckily, the next season I felt the itch, and was offered a job with an outfitter close to home in SE Alaska, hunting on federal land, regulated by use permits and controlling the number of hunters and guides. While no system is perfect, at least now we knew what area was who's, and were able to develop a close working relationship with the small number of other operators in the area. We rarely overlapped and could finally offer the experience our clients pay for and deserve.

I started my own business in 2004, and through a hard work and diligence I was able to obtain my own federal land use permits, some through allocation and some I purchased from retiring outfitters/guides. If I had not had the opportunity for such controlled use on federal land and had to guide only on State land, I would not have started my business, as I do not feel I could offer my clients the experience they deserve. Having systems in place to control the use on any land is VITAL to our industry and way of life. When not guiding, I have worked as a commercial fisherman, and without the limited entry system there would be very little controls and less stability in the fishing industry. Through implementation of the Limited Entry System the State of Alaska stabilized the fishing industry, creating many opportunities for young fisherman and a future for the industry. I honestly believe that by passing HB 158 we will help to create stability that the guide industry in Alaska is greatly lacking, insuring that there is

opportunity for other young or new guides well into the future. These are the two most important reasons to implement a Guide Area System on State land- future sustainability of the industry and the experience for the hunter/land user, not just the non resident hunter making use of a guide, but the resident hunter or land user who will see and understand that the guides work under constraints and are dedicated to conservation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I hope you will all work to insure the future of Alaska's wild places and the sustainability of our way of life. I can only hope that someday I can pass this lifestyle on to my new son.

Keegan McCarthy

9803 Nine Mile Creek Rd

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 723-3006

Registered Guide #1061

Linda Hay

From: Jeff Chadd <sheephunter@majesticmountainoutfitters.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 3:14 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: RE: Yes to HB158

I strongly support HB158 because it gives the go-ahead for a guide area system on state land. I was just getting into to guiding in 1988 when the guide area system was thrown out. I can see that the resource has suffered from that decision. We are now looking at more areas that are permit-only and more “hobby guides” taking resources anywhere and everywhere. I think that if something isn’t done to allow guides areas so that guides can farm the resource and care for their areas without interference, the states resources are on a slippery slope. This isn’t even taking into consideration the amount of revenue brought into the state via our clients.

Sincerely,

Jeff Chadd

Master Guide #125

29 years of guiding in Alaska

We take about 20 clients a year.

We make 100% of our living from guiding and have for 25 years.

Linda Hay

From: Zernia, Ed <EZernia@SouthcentralFoundation.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 11:10 AM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: HB 158 testimony

Dear Representative Eric Feige,

Please include this record in testimony to House Bill 158

I am disappointed that the State of Alaska could potentially pass a Bill so flawed that we already know it will have to be fixed after it is passed at a greater expense. That is irresponsible. The pro HB158 supporters are dominated by veterans in the guiding industry that are motivated to not have any competition. There are methods that could be used in a different concession plan to limit the number of guides on state land but they have been shot down by 'professional guide organization' members/lobbyist who prefer a monopoly in their select guide use areas. The current plan will almost eliminate any new recruits from entering this industry as a "contracting" guide unless they are independently wealthy and are guiding only as a hobby.

I am against HB 158

Thank You for this opportunity to Testify.

Sincerely,

Ed Zernia Registered Guide #969

Phone (907)360-1267

PO Box 242011

Anchorage, AK 99524-2011

Linda Hay

From: Tracy Vrem <tracy@bluemountainlodge.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 10:55 AM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett
Subject: HB 158

Dear Rep. Feige and members of the House resources committee;

My name is Tracy Vrem I live in Eagle River and I'm a lifelong resident of Alaska. I've been in the guiding industry since 1978. I hold master guide license number 96 and am a member of APHA. This is my full time occupation. I have a Lodge on the Alaska Peninsula and 90% of my family's income is derived from guided hunting and fishing clients.

I am in full support of HB 158. The guiding industry depends on a harvestable surplus of Alaska's wildlife. If there is not a surplus of big-game animals the non-resident hunter will be the 1st user to be eliminated. Without the nonresident hunter the big game guiding industry will be nonexistent.

I am not aware of any state resources that are not managed by some sort of concession/lease program; i.e., oil and gas, fish, mining, timber and agriculture.

Big game guiding in the state of Alaska is an earned privilege not a right. I believe for the long-term sustainability of the guiding industry there has to be some sort of guide area concession. I don't believe just because you have a registered or master guide license that the State of Alaska must provide you with a place to conduct your business.

An open entry program with no limitations to the amount of users impacting a resource can only be managed by reaction from the Board of Game i.e. drawing permit, shortening a season or eliminating a season all together. For the hobby guide this is no big deal, for the guide that has his whole livelihood tied up in a guide area, it is financially devastating.

The Alaska State Constitution has a common use clause for the fish and game, for Alaska residents. I'm not aware of the State of Alaska's Constitution having a common use clause for non-resident hunters?

Please support HB 158

Sincerely,

Tracy Vrem

Tracy Vrem

Alaska Master Guide #96

tracy@bluemountainlodge.com www.bluemountainlodge.com

907-360-0541

Linda Hay

From: Gary Gray <alsekriverguideservice@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 2:42 PM
To: Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Wes Keller; rep.bill.stoltz@akleg.gov; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Support of HB158 Guide Area System for State of Alaska Land

Dear Legislator,

My name is Gary Gray and I live in Yakutat, Alaska (P.O.Box 304.) I am a registered guide, license number 592, and have been guiding for 31 years. I take about 16 hunters each year, primarily for brown bear but also for black/glacier bear, moose, goat and wolf. My guiding business accounts for essentially 100% of the annual income for my family.

I strongly support HB158, the proposal to create a guide area system on State of Alaska land. I believe that a system like this would be improve the guiding business as well as protect the wildlife resources of Alaska.

Clients coming to Alaska are often on a "once in a lifetime" trip and should be able to expect a quality wilderness experience. You can't assure your clients of a good experience if you don't know from one year to the next if you will be competing for the wildlife resource with one other guide or ten other guides in the same area.

Thank you,
Gary Gray
907-784-3451

Linda Hay

From: Zachariah Decker <z.decker@me.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 2:15 PM
To: Rep. Eric Feige
Subject: HB 158

I SUPORT HB158 AND THE DNR GUIDE CONCESSTION PROGRAM

Zachariah Decker

1. Alaska Registered Guide #1263
2. 10 + years of guiding experience in Alaska
3. 35-45 Non resident clients guided each year.
4. 100% of my income comes from guiding.

Plus \$300,000 to \$400,000 is add to local community through, local income, Local air charters, and supplies, State licenses, tags, and USFS permit fees to name a few elements,

5. No other state in America has a Guide industry like Alaska,

Hunting Draw system kill Guiding Industry,

6. Guide concession program would help reduce crowding by limiting number of guides to a area and a allocation of number of clients they can hunt. Witch will allow resident opportunity.

Thanks for your time

Zach Decker

Zach and Alisha Decker
Glacier Guides Inc.
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907-321-2180
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