



P.O. Box 478 • Homer • Alaska • 99603

To Preserve and Protect the Rights and Resources of Alaska's Recreational Anglers

Representative Munoz
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK, 99801

February 12, 2014

Comments: HB 41

Dear Representative Munoz,

The Alaska Charter Association (ACA) represents over 150 charter vessels throughout Alaska. It also represents associate members, which consist of community businesses that depend on a viable charter industry.

The ACA is in support of HB 41, an Act relating to sport fishing services, sport fishing operators, and sport fishing guides; and providing for an effective date. It is important that the public interest and safety be protected by the guide licensing program which sunset December 31, 2014. Our industry has seen no issues with the program since its inception in 2005 and was surprised to see its disappearance this coming season.

We understand the current budgetary constraints that face the Department of Fish and Game to fund this program within their budget. We feel it's reasonable to raise guide licensing fees to ensure the sustainability of industry professional standards.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in moving this Bill forward.

Sincerely,

Richard Yamada
President