



## Alaska Legislative Outdoor Caucus Advisory Council

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Wes Keller, Co-Chair  
Legislative Outdoor Heritage Caucus  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stoltze and Representative Keller:

The undersigned representatives of the sportsmen's community respectfully request the support of the members of the Legislative Outdoor Heritage Caucus (LOHC) for the introduction of legislation addressing the current deficiencies in license and tag fees for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The current fees are woefully inadequate and need to be adjusted to accommodate inflationary concerns as well as scientific research and management needs.

Members of several groups have been supportive of an increase for several years now and with the current budget crisis due to falling oil prices, it is imperative we maintain funding for ADF&G at current levels. A fee increase for licenses and tags would help tremendously in maintaining important ADF&G programs. It would also boost revenue in the Fish and Game Fund, which the State uses to match Pittman-Roberts funding from the federal government at a three to one match. As we understand it, there are now more P-R funds available than the State has funds to match, consequently we are leaving some of those federal dollars on the table.

We realize that a process needs to be formulated whereby Alaskans will have a chance to discuss the pros and cons of a license increase. Furthermore, we are fully aware that any increase will have to be acceptable. With that in mind, the members of the LOHC Advisory Council believe that it would be prudent to begin with a modest increase in hunting license fees, a small fee for big game tags and perhaps a sockeye salmon stamp fee for fishing.

We hope as members of the LOHC you will lend your support to this effort and work with us to engage the support of fellow legislators and concerned Alaskans with appropriate legislation this year. As dedicated anglers and hunter-conservationists, we fully believe that after 20 years the time has come for constructive dialogue and action on this issue of importance to Alaskans and the fish and wildlife resources that are such an integral part of Alaskan culture.

Sincerely,

*Eddie Grasser*

Eddie Grasser  
Chair

*Brett Barringer*

Brett Barringer  
President  
SCI Alaska Chapter

*John Stacey*

John "Thor" Stacey  
Alaska Professional Hunters Assoc.

*Spencie Netschert*

Spencie Netschert  
President  
SCI Kenai Chapter

*Ricky Gease*

Ricky Gease  
Executive Director  
Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc.

*Kevin Kehoe*

Kevin Kehoe  
President  
Alaska Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation

*Mark Smith*

Mark Smith  
Director of Public Policy  
Ducks Unlimited

Cc: The Honorable Bill Walker, Governor  
The Honorable Sam Cotton, Commissioner of Fish & Game  
Members of the Legislative Outdoor Heritage Caucus