

Katmai Guide Service

JOE KLUTSCH, MASTER GUIDE

Dear Representative Stutes,

I am writing you from King Salmon, Alaska, where my Wife and I have lived for over 40 years. I have been guiding fishermen and hunters since 1974 as an Assistant Guide, and earned my Registered Guide license in 1979. These were dramatic years leading to the passage of ANILCA. Like all other people in the private sector, in the face of both Federal and State regulations, I have always advocated for proper regulatory standards that ensure conservation of Alaska's wildlife resources to the best extent possible.

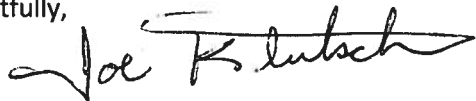
I have been involved with this process even before the passage of ANILCA and have a very good historical perspective on resource management in Alaska. I have served over 35 years on the Bristol Bay Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee and continue to learn a great deal about resource management. I cannot stress the importance of accountability and professional standards of conduct in the guiding profession. The Big Game Commercial Services Board is the primary vehicle to ensure we can accomplish these goals. This board is the one state entity that can address state wide guiding and transporter issues, aside from federal agencies who generally advocate agendas which do not fairly reflect the overall interests of the guiding profession and the State of Alaska as a whole.

You should also understand the role the guiding industry plays in contracting with airlines, air charter companies, hotels, restaurants and sporting good outlets in our state. This goes beyond the cash flow to major transport centers throughout the state but as importantly the rural villages where there are significant employment opportunities. In Kodiak and on the Alaska Peninsula, nearly all of the people who work with me are residents of the region. You should not underestimate the importance of our economic contribution.

Lastly, it is extremely important that we are able through a state board process to design proper regulations (not over regulation) and carry out regulatory enforcement designed to ensure professional standards of conduct and real conservation of our state's wildlife resources. The reauthorization of the Big Game Commercial Services Board will prevent the abrogation of state jurisdiction to a myriad of federal agencies that tend not to be informed or sensitive to state guiding issues beyond their parochial land "management" perspectives.

I urge you in all sincerity to reauthorize the Big Game Commercial Services Board, HB 254. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding my perspective on this legislation.

Respectfully,



Joe Klutsch

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