



January 28, 2015

Re: Support of Sport Fishing Guide License Program HB41

Dear Mr. Hilyard:

I am writing you to express my strong support for House Bill 41; reinstatement of the Sport Fishing Guide License Program that sunseted on December 31, 2014.

This program has been working well and is not only in the best interests of the industry but also in the best interest of the public as it ensured that fishing guides and operators met certain industry standards and safety requirements. This program had functioned for many years without any issues that I am aware of.

Without approval of HB 41 there will be no avenue in place through ADF&G to properly process applications for Sport Fishing Guide Service providers or operators unless the onerous Fishing Guide Board is established.

Our industry is already fully regulated by NMFS, NOAA, USCG, and ADF&G and HB 41. We simply do not need more red tape and the politics that a Fishing Guide Board would create. Our State does not need the additional expense of establishing and maintaining this board.

The proposed fee structure of the Sport Fishing Guide Program would make the program pay for itself without additional cost to the State. If costs needed to be reduced even further, the Guide Log book would be simple to streamline, saving expense both in production and tabulation.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Capt. Chris Conder
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