

ALASKA

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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March 28th, 2016

House Judiciary Committee
Chairman Representative Gabrielle LaDoux
Vice Chairman Wes Keller
Representative Neal Foster
Representative Bob Lynn
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Matt Claman

House Judiciary Committee,

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association is contacting you today in Support of House Bill 317, Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Bill, sponsored by Representative Tammie Wilson and Co-sponsored by Representative Kreiss – Tomkins.

We are aware of several situations where assets have been seized, often right before the start of hunting season, for several months and even years prior to any charges being issued. Often those assets are used to try to broker plea agreements. Private property has been permanently taken from individuals suspected of crimes, even if they are never charged or found guilty. In several other cases, pleas are made because to pursue acquittal is cost prohibitive.

We feel that a uniform standard is needed and that a person should be first convicted before forfeiture proceedings should take place, also that guiltless spouses and family members should be protected from resulting property loss. We support working towards transparency and accountability. We agree that any revenues generated from forfeiture, should be deposited to the general fund to reduce financial incentives for abuse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat
Vice President, Alaska Professional Hunters Association

Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.