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Rep. Louise Stutes
Alaska Legislature

Dear Rep. Stutes,

Thank you for sponsoring HB254, reauthorizing the BGCSB.

I am a 36 resident of Kodiak Island and have been in the outdoor recreation business and guiding for over 30 years, here on Kodiak and elsewhere through out the state. I think it is extremely important to have high professional standards for both my business and the industry. I have contact with many other guides and guide associations around the world and in talking with them am reassured how important this professionalism is for our clients, our businesses, our guide association and the state.

I believe it is very important and our responsibility as citizens and as users of the resource to have a say in and be involved with the management and regulatory process. I have been on, and currently chairman of, the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee for over 20 years; participating in the Board of Game and Board of Fish processes. I am the State of Alaska trustee, and currently chairman of, the Kodiak Brown bear Trust. I helped form and am chairman of Kodiak's bear committee, KUBS (Kodiak Unified Bear Subcommittee). I also work regularly with the biologists and land managers of the ADF&G, USFWS and local native corporations.

I believe the reauthorization of the BGCSB is very important to maintaining the highest standards for our industry. This board knows the nuances of the industry and varied areas around the state, making it the most effective for helping manage, regulate and discipline the commercial operators.

I think it is very important to maintain the high quality guiding industry in Alaska as it is a major economic resource to the state and communities with in the state. The big game guiding industry for Kodiak alone is worth millions of dollars to the local and state economies with the added benefit of tourism dollars spent above and beyond our industry in transportation, lodging, dining, equipment purchases, etc.

I appreciate your sponsoring and support of this bill and please feel free to contact me if you should need any additional information.

Sincerely, Paul A. Chervenak

