

Alaska Chapter SCI
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April 4, 2016

The Honorable Steve Thompson, Co-Chair
Alaska House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Thompson:

I am writing to express support for extending the sunset date for the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). It is our strong belief that the guiding and transport businesses need to be managed for the utmost in professional standards due to the potential life threatening situations inherent in the associated activities, as well as the fact that these professions are utilizing highly prized resources belonging to all Alaskans.

SCI Alaska Chapter is the leading hunter-conservationist group in Alaska with a proven record of support for conservation (wood bison restoration), outdoor education (Becoming an Outdoors-Woman classes), humanitarian services (1000's of pounds of protein donated to the food bank) and of course advocacy for the freedom to hunt. Our members are influential community and business leaders from across the state who are committed to sustainable opportunities based on scientific management.

The State of Alaska has many professional standards boards. However, few of those regulate an industry that brings with it so many potential situations where life or limb may be jeopardized. For that reason alone, we believe the public needs to have confidence that when contracting with a guide or transporter, that those individuals providing the services have the highest professional credentials. Secondly, those kind of standards must extend to related conservation concerns over the use of our fish and game resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration on our views pertaining to this issue.

Sincerely,

Eddie Grasser, Chair
AK SCI Gov't Affairs

cc: Rep. Mark Neuman, Co-Chair House Finance
House Finance Committee Members

SCI's Top Gun Chapter