

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Joe Klutsch <joeklutsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 5:18 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Christa McDonald; Sen. Chris Birch
Cc: Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Sen. Lyman Hoffman
Subject: SB43

Dear members of the Senate Resources Committee,

You will be reviewing SB43, sponsored by Senator Wilson, which would reauthorize the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). I fully support moving this bill forward and ultimately see the legislature reauthorize this Board. I have been guiding full time since 1976, living in rural Alaska since that time. Following the sunset of the original Guide License and Control Board in the late 1980s, I was actively involved in the legislative process which established a new guide law along with the original Big Game Commercial Services Board. The Board has been the essential element in adopting the regulatory structure necessary to implement the driving statutes of the guide law. This is a public Board process including the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management, wildlife enforcement, input from the Guiding and Transporting industries, and land owners including FWS, NPS, BLM, DNR, and private landowners. A Board of Game representative serves on the Board. Over the years, the members of this Board have worked extremely hard to establish a regulatory structure which benefits the sustainable utilization of wildlife resources and provides professional licensing standards and accountability. Additionally, the regulatory framework for which they are responsible ensures the long term economic viability of the guiding and transporting industries.

This Board has worked carefully over the years to avoid adopting unnecessary and burdensome regulations. There are a lot of moving parts when it comes to ensuring proper commercial utilization of Alaska's wildlife resources. The Board process allows public participation which reflects the interests of all affected parties and although it can be a trying process at times (not unlike the legislative process), the end product over the years has been very successful in ensuring professional standards of conduct and stewardship of our wildlife resource. This Board is a necessary element for properly regulating big game commercial service providers. In addition, it provides economic viability to the state, and protects resident hunting opportunities, including those of subsistence users.

Once again I urge you to move the bill out of committee and ultimately support its passage by the legislature as a whole. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Joe Klutsch
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