

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Wayne Kubat <wayne@alaskaremote.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:23 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. Mike Shower; Rep. David Eastman
Cc: Christa McDonald
Subject: I support SB43

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee,

I'm Wayne Kubat. I've lived in Alaska year-round since 1976. My wife Marilyn and I have lived near Wasilla since 1984. I earned my Assistant guide license in 1981, I earned my registered guide license in 1986, and started my own guide business in 1987. I received my registered guide license and started my own guide business prior to the 1988 Osweichek decision which declared the former state guide area program unconstitutional. I also served on the Mat-Su advisory committee from 1998-2007 and chaired it the last 4 years that I served. I've been a professional member of Alaska Professional Hunter's Association (APHA) since 1986. I'm asking you today on my own behalf, to support and move forward SB43 sponsored by Senator Wilson, which would reauthorize the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB).

There is a lot of talk floating around these days about the "powerful guide lobby negatively impacting resident hunters and unduly influencing the Board of Game" and "the state being overrun by non-resident hunters", when in actuality guided hunting effort only accounts for about 3% of the big game hunting licenses sold, but brings in over \$50 million new dollars to Alaska, not counting any multiplier effects. Furthermore, 90% of Alaska Guide Businesses are resident owned. Guided clients leave most of their meat in Alaska, and much of it in rural Alaska. Total non-resident effort is only about 13% but provides about 72% of Alaska's wildlife funding. This is a very good deal for Alaska's wildlife and its' residents. Thousands and thousands and thousands of Alaskans can afford to hunt, that may otherwise not be able to afford to, if it were not for the funding provided by a minor percentage of NR hunters. Many Alaskans want to be able to occasionally hunt with non-resident family and friends, instead of almost completely banning them like many recent Board of Game proposals seem to suggest.

I listened to the testimony and there were a few complaints about the board not taking action in certain cases. I would like to point out that every meeting I go to, there are multiple binders – big binders – full of dozens of actions they have taken. Maybe they don't get them all right away, but they certainly put a good sized dent in them.

The guide industry needs a voice that knows the truth and can represent us fairly. The BGCSB is that voice and is a very important piece of the puzzle towards maintaining the long term health and viability of the Guide Industry into the future. Please support and move forward SB43. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat / Master Guide #147

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