

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Brad Dennison <bradford.dennison@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 12:49 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; christa.mcdonal@akleg.gov; Sen. Chris Birch
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Subject: SB43

Senate Resources Committee

I am writing in support of SB43, which would reauthorize the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

I have been guiding in Southeast Alaska since 1985 and am currently a master guide, providing brown bear and black bear hunts out of Sitka. Under the oversight of the BGCSB, the guiding industry has evolved into an important, and sustainable, part of Alaska's economy, providing employment opportunities for many in rural Alaska and helping to support our rural local economies, while protecting the State's wildlife resources..

The Board has provided guides with the representation needed to find reasonable and effective solutions to the many issues that impact our industry, while, in many cases, helping to avoid unnecessary and burdensome regulation.

The BGCSB has been a success story and continues to be a very necessary part of the overall management of Alaska's big game commercial service industries. I urge you to support SB43.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Brad Dennison
Master Guide 138
Alaska Coastal Outfitters
505 1st Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Jacob Fletcher <fletchersguideservice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 8:36 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: Fletcher's Guide Service

Dear, Senator Chris Birch

My name is Jacob Fletcher, I am a registered guide in Alaska, Guide #1326. I've been working in the guiding industry for 20 years. Three of those years running a outfitting business on Kodiak Island and in the quaint village of Talkeetna.

I live in Palmer and spend my springs on Kodiak and summer's in Talkeetna, Alaska. I am a father and husband, my wife and I have 6 year old twins. Our employees and my personal family make a living by guiding in Alaska.

I personally fulfilled the requirements for becoming a Registered guide, I came up through the Big game commercial services board guiding system. Throughout that process I was thankful for the professionalism and their testing requirements.

Thank you for your time.

Jacob Fletcher

907-982-7254

Trever M. Fulton

From: Paul Ferucci <ferucci@alaskan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Trever M. Fulton
Subject: Opposition to BGCSB 6 year term renewal

I oppose the renewal of the BGCSB for a 6 year term due to this board inadequately managing commercial hunting guides.

I'm a lifelong Alaskan and this past summer (Aug 12) a guided hunter shot and killed a ram after my 13 year old son had fired and missed the ram. I submitted a formal complaint with both the BGCSB and the AK Troopers in September 2018 and have not heard a word as to the progress of the investigation since then. Lee Strout (investigator for the BGCSB) tells me it's in the hands of Trooper Gunderson, and Trooper Gunderson has not returned my calls or emails...

Sincerely,
Paul Ferucci, MD
Anchorage, AK

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
Master Guide 91

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Joe Klutsch
Katmai Guide Service
Master Guide

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King Salmon, Alaska 99613
(907) 246-3030
www.katmaiguideservice.com
joeklutsch@gmail.com

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Cole Kramer <kodiakhunter19@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Christa McDonald; Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: Support for SB43!!

First off, Thank you for taking the time to read my email, I know you are all very busy!!

My name is Cole Kramer, I moved to Kodiak AK in 2002 a week after graduating high school with dreams of becoming an Alaskan Big Game guide. After putting in the time & efforts involved as a packer & than an assistant guide I received my registered guide lic i believe in 2006. I was very proud to be in the first group of guides to take the NEW test that was set up by the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

I am in full support of (SB43) the BGCSB, i have personally helped proctor testing, made suggestions to help improve our Alaskan guiding standard & believe that the board was totally influential in making neccasary changes needed.

The Board understands the guiding industry & is now paying for itself. They understand the rules & regulations of our industry, I feel they are best suited in carrying out disciplinary & investigative actions.

Our Guiding industry contributes more than 70 Million dollars each year to Alaska's economy. The BGCSB is of the upmost importance in making sure that we as guides are held to a professional standard.

Thank you once again four your time & help!

Sincerely,

Cole Kramer
Registered Guide/ Outfitter 1249
Kramer's Kodiak Guide Service
PO Box 2748??
Kodiak AK 99616
907-539-6447

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

Wayne Kubat dba Alaska Remote Guide Service / PO Box 874867 / Wasilla, Alaska 99687 / work: 907-376-9568 / cell: 907-355-8568 / <http://www.alaskaremote.com>

Dear Senator Wilson,

I'm writing to thank you for sponsoring Senate bill 43 and voice my support for continuation of the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB).

I've been in the guiding/outfitting and transporting business for 34 years on Kodiak Island and throughout Alaska. I am well aware of the importance of the guide industry to our local and the state economy and the need to maintain the health of this industry. I believe in operating in a highly professional and ethical manner and that our industry as a whole does, due to having the BGCSB.

The Alaskan guide/outfitting industry is held in high esteem throughout the rest of the US and around the world due to our high professional standards, apprenticeship requirements, testing and disciplinary actions.

Thank you for your support of the guide industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Chervenak
Master Guide 160

Kodiak Outdoor Adventures
PO Box 1961
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
907-486-3008
paul@kodiakoutdoors.com

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Jeff Pralle <jeffpralle@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 8:53 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: SB43

Senate Resources Committee Members,

You will be reviewing SB43, sponsored by Senator Wilson, which would reauthorize the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). As a longtime Alaskan I support this bill and support the legislature reauthorizing the Big Game Commercial Services Board. I have been employed in the hunt guiding industry since 1982, living in rural Alaska most of these years. I currently employ 6-8 staff most of whom are also Alaska Residents.

After the sunset of the original Guide License and Control Board in the late 1980s, I actively participated in the process to establish a new guide law along with the original Big Game Commercial Services Board. The Board is essential in adopting the regulatory structure necessary to implement the statutes of the guide law. This is a public Board process. As such many stakeholders from interested members of the public, operators within the Big Game Commercial services industry, and landholders are all a necessary part of promoting a healthy and thriving community based industry. Our licensing standards as developed and administered by the Board have helped to provide a sustainable use of Wildlife resources and a viable source of income within our State. This is accomplished through the cooperation of many State and Federal agencies and other Boards like our Board of Game.

I support the Board in its efforts to maintain regulating our industry. By maintaining the Board we can assure a stable and reliable industry that allows for all user groups to cooperate and see our wildlife flourish.

Please move this bill out of committee and support its passage by the legislature.

Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jeffory K. Pralle
Alaska Master Guide #128

907-414-7545

3060 N. Lazy Eight Ct Suite 2 PMB 176
Wasilla, Aalska 99654

JKPralle@gmail.com

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__wwwXXAlaska.com&d=DwIFAg&c=Q8iJasR7RZ-JOFd9RXD9ZA&r=9BTNnHFC8FXXN9qTKI_Hlr4KA2tZm-g6KJcicNcjsUo&m=zJ6W4F641wcW/bobXhaDcmFyHVe58E5hHNd8ls3UdaBI&s=x1dbO901XI92DqosxF4YpjoR_hdlzBjl30DVg6A4QKM&e=

ALASKA

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: office@alaskaprohunter.org ~ www.alaskaprohunter.org

February 15, 2019

Dear Senator Wilson,

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) would like to thank you for sponsoring SB43 and lend our strong support to re-authorizing the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). APHA is Alaska's only organization advocating for Alaska's historic hunting guide industry. Founded in 1971, APHA has approximately 135 professional members, representing more than 40% of Alaska's guide businesses. As a professional organization we advocate for high ethical and professional standards within our industry. APHA recognizes that Alaska's big game resources we rely on are held in the public trust and our access to those resources is a privilege that comes with stewardship responsibilities. The BGCSB is the central public institution that keeps our profession vital and our relationship with the general public sustainable and healthy in an ever changing, complex world.

Alaska's guide industry is a net positive to the State coffers and contributes essential new dollars to the Alaskan economy, especially in rural Alaska. Alaska's active registered hunting guides are overwhelmingly Alaska residents (89%, McDowell 2014). Close to 50% of the total \$78 million total economic activity is captured in rural areas in Alaska. (McDowell 2014). These numbers and this relationship between Alaska ownership and Alaska's game resources are essential to keep in mind when considering re-authorizing the BGCSB. Without high licensing standards and the vocational/apprentice path to professional licensure that the BGCSB administers and oversees, this healthy economic relationship could be lost. We urge the legislature to keep in mind that the Division of Wildlife (ADF&G) is a huge beneficiary of hunting license and tag fees from our clients (non-residents) and that these revenue streams are matched by federal dollars 3 to 1. In total non-resident hunters account for 72% of the division of wildlife's budget while making up less than 13% of the hunters in the field. Alaska's hunting guide industry direct and indirect benefits to the State, economy and general public are significant.

Big game is a cornerstone of Alaskan culture. Game is a source of subsistence and food security; while providing immeasurable enjoyment when viewed. Alaskan wildlife is a major attraction for domestic and global travelers alike. Wildlife and Alaska are synonymous. Alaska's reputation and attractiveness as a global destination requires that we have world-class game management and responsible programs where commercial take of wildlife is allowed. Guiding hunters may be the oldest value-added tour in Alaska but it is essential that the industry and profession continually update its standards to maintain its place in the future. Without the delegated regulatory authority afforded the BGCSB it would be impossible for the industry to stay current and responsive to the general public and the industry's needs.

Guiding hunters in Alaska's vast wilderness requires a diverse and impressive set of skills. Wilderness travel, first aid, meat handling, charging bears, raging river and flying are the

Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

associations that come to mind when one thinks about an “Alaskan hunting guide.” APHA is working hard to maintain these positive associations and we need our BGCSB to continue this process. APHA is a seasoned organization that has advocated for Alaska’s guide industry through many challenging and difficult times in Alaska’s history. We respectfully offer our strong support for the Big Game Commercial Services Board as an institution that is essential for the future of our industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Rohrer", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Rohrer
President, APHA



MAILING	6200 E Beechcraft Rd Wasilla, AK 99654
PHYSICAL	Wolf Lake Airport
S. Cell	907-350-1001
S Cell	907-350-3982

To Whom It May Concern:

I am one of the motivated participants in the Big Game Commercial Services Board. I am a simple representative for those involved in this industry. I would like to express my desire to see the Board continue on its path to 2025. There have been some big changes fiscally in the past few years. The board has taken it upon itself to not only serve the legislature with a point of view, but also carry its own weight fiscally. That is a token of the importance of this Board to the industry as a whole. The BGCSB serves as a voice for those people, it is simple to see they take nothing for granted. I hope you will see that this industry is faceted and needs your support of the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cash Joyce – Transporter Representative BGCSB

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Jay H. Stanford <jay.stanford18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Christa McDonald; Sen. Chris Birch
Cc: Sam Rohrer
Subject: SB43

Dear Senator Wilson,

I would like to thank you for sponsoring SB43 and I strongly support the re-authorization of the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). The guiding industry has a long rich history in Alaska and it's an industry that I'm proud to be a part of. I've been guiding for six years around the state including the Wrangell Mountains, Bristol Bay, and Kodiak. I have seen first hand the positive economic impact the guiding industry has on rural communities. Communities that heavily rely on the economic bump in the spring and fall that guides and clients bring. It is also important to re-authorize the BGCSB to keep a professional hunting voice in the regulatory process and to help authorize entry into the guiding industry through issuing guide licenses.

I've had the privilege of working with some of the top outfitters in Alaska and ethics and professionalism has been their top priority and that starts with the BGCSB. As a registered guide, that just went through the licensing and testing process just two years ago, I know the BGCSB is key to keeping high professional standards in the guiding industry. Without the BGCSB we could lose the current process of licensing new guides that keeps the professional standards high.

The re-authorization of the BGCSB is key to keep a voice for the guiding industry in the regulatory process to help insure there's a future for the guiding industry. An industry that contributes more that \$70 million a year to the economy of Alaska and one that needs to be protected for future generations.

Once again I thank you for sponsoring SB43 and I urge your fellow constituents to support it.

Sincerely,

Jay H. Stanford
Registered Guide 117647

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Treasure Hunter Lodge Alaska <treasurehunterlodge@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 4:48 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Christa McDonald; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Chris Birch; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Cc: jonathan.s.kt@gmail.com; Catherine.Schlingheyde@akleg.gov; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
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 this bill and urge you to reauthorize the board.

I am a full time Alaskan resident of Klawock, AK and my wife and I operate a small hunting and fishing operation. I've been working as a hunting guide in the state since 1996 and have been a resident since 2000. I started in the guiding industry when there was no BGCSB and I assure you that our industry is much better off having the oversight and ability of the board to sanction all the guides. In the early 2000's our industry was full of outlaws. Largely because of the BGCSB, now our industry has the highest standards in the world and its members are competent, highly trained, virtuous professionals that provide many benefits to the state.

Most of our clients are non-residents that bring millions of dollars in income to the state and many of those dollars are spent and multiplied in rural Alaska.

The BGCSB is the single biggest reason the guiding industry has been significantly improved in the last decade.

The board is a self sustaining entity that is of great benefit to the guiding industry and the state of Alaska.

I urge you to pass SB43.

Thank you!

Kurt & Trina
Treasure Hunter Lodge LLC-Alaska
www.TreasureHunterLodge.com
www.AlaskaBlackBearHunts.com
907.738.5000

February 25th, 2019

Dear Members of the Senate Resource Committee,

I am writing support of SB43 and the legislative audit recommendation for the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) to be reauthorized for an additional 6 years.

I have been a Registered Guide here in Alaska for the last 19 years and worked as an assistant guide 3 years before becoming registered. Over the last 22 years I have both operated a Registered guide as well as continued work in an assistant guide capacity when employed by others, operating mostly under federal concession programs on both US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service lands. I also have permits on both Bureau of Land Management and State of Alaska lands to allow access in areas where these lands adjoin the federal concessions I operate on. My family's guiding business provides the only source of "local" employment in my part of rural Alaska, other than trapping. All my employees are Alaskan residents, as has been the case for the last 19 years.

I was initially licensed during the period when the original "guide board" was sunsetted by the legislature and after the program that delegated specific guiding areas to individual guides statewide was dismantled due to a court ruling. This was both a period of limited oversight of the guiding industry as well as period when relatively simple standards for initial licensing were fixed in statute, resulting in both a proliferation of guides and a lowering of the professional standards of professional guiding in our state to harm of both the public and, in some cases, the resources itself.

The reestablishment of the BGCSB has meaningfully addressed these resulting problems in many ways, including:

1. Providing a continuing process of updating regulations to address how portions of the guiding industry responded to minimized oversight and new areas of concern as they develop.
2. Reestablishing oral exams and updating written exams to better reflect and address the increased standards of professionalism that is expected of a professional hunter in today's world. These higher testing standards have also seemingly increased the quality of individuals and simultaneously reduced the number of applicants seeking licensure.
3. Providing the board and Dept. of Commerce (the state) meaningful industry input regarding the need for and effectiveness of regulatory requirements and ethical standards.
4. Providing a venue for continuing education opportunities for young and old guides alike, especially as regards the interpretation and expectations of the sometimes-complex matrix of regulations that relate to guiding businesses from the BGCSB, the Alaska Board of Game, the Dept. of Commerce, the Dept. of Public Safety, the FAA and Coast Guard, and a variety of land management agencies.
5. Providing a forum for professional guides and transporters to meet with peers and discuss the issues of the day, the expectations and requirements of professional conduct within a peer-to-peer setting, and to develop connections within the industries that encourage better interactions and respectful conduct in the field.

Alaska's guiding industry is one of the most, if not the most, heavily regulated small industries in our state, and for good reason. Alaska's wildlife is held in trust for the Alaskan people as a whole, and any commercial interface with these renewable resources should be held to the highest standards of responsibility and professionalism, whether through active regulatory oversight or the establishment and review of ethical standards. I believe BGCSB provides this important and necessary venue for the benefit of the public, the industry, and our state as a whole.

Sincerely,

Nathan Turner
Registered Guide #1036

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