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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 28, 2021

Chief Clerk
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Thomas Stewart Building, Room 202
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chief Clerk:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill regarding sportfish guide and operator licensing.

This bill would reinstitute the saltwater sportfishing guide and operator licensing standards, saltwater guide and operator fees, and logbook reporting requirements for those saltwater guides. The logbook data provided by saltwater fishing guides and services provides critical information that informs sustainable fisheries management decisions under treaties for the management of halibut and salmon. Further, the Board of Fisheries management plans benefit from updated and complete information. This bill would establish license fees for saltwater sportfishing guide services and set responsible operating standards for guides. These standards are designed to ensure a level of professionalism to protect Alaskans and visitors who use the saltwater guide industry, but they do not establish overly-burdensome or unnecessary requirements not directly related to key sportfishing components. This type of "right-sized" state law allows for a robust industry while still protecting our fisheries resources and users of the industry services.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure