



SCI Alaska Chapter
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The Honorable Bert Stedman, The Honorable Click Bishop
Co-chairs, Senate Finance Committee
32nd Alaska State Legislature

March 25, 2022

Re: Support for Senate Bill 204 HUNTING PERMIT/TAG AUCTIONS/RAFFLES

Dear Senator Stedman, Senator Bishop

The Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI-AK) strongly supports the proposed changes to the Governor's tag program under SB 204. These changes will greatly benefit outdoor conservation groups—like SCI-AK—while providing an economic boost to ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, and local businesses and communities. It is important to note that this legislation does not require the department to issue these permits. If there is a wildlife conservation concern the department would not issue licenses and SCI-AK would support the department in this management decision.

This year SCI-AK raffled off a Chugach sheep tag with a guided hunt package including guiding and scouting services, a lightweight sheep rifle, optics, clothing, and even a tip for the guide. Of the raffle tickets sold, 53% were purchased by out-of-state residents—this is outside hunter revenue being brought into the state. The winner of the raffle, however, was an Alaskan resident. This single raffle netted \$418,277, of which \$292,794 goes to ADF&G for wildlife management and \$125,483 goes to SCI-AK for our conservation projects. ADF&G is able to leverage this money against Pittman-Robertson matching funds, roughly equaling \$1.7 million. All these funds stay in our local economy.

SCI-AK is a 501c4 conservation non-profit Corporation established in Alaska in 1977. We currently have approximately 600 members and our mission statement is "SCI-First for Hunters." We are a conservation organization that promotes the scientific management of Alaska's wildlife and the protection of Alaskan hunters rights. We do this partly by funding wildlife projects and sending money to ADF&G. These funds are usually eligible for matching Pitman-Robertson funds (a Federal excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales). In addition, we fund projects that encourage Alaska's youth to get outdoors to fish and hunt. We also fund Wounded Warrior hunts, including the moose hunt on Ft. Wainwright. Last year, SCI-AK sponsored all 6 Wounded Warrior permit winners by covering their hunting expenses. We are able to undertake these activities because of our fundraising efforts—including auctioning Governor's tags.

In Summary: SCI-AK supports SB 204. The passage of this legislation will greatly assist us in protecting Alaskan hunters rights, promoting responsible wildlife management, and encouraging more Alaskans—especially our youth—to hunt.

Best regards,

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

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Safari Club International Alaska Chapter
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife