



SCI Alaska Chapter
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February 5, 2025

Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: SCI-AK Support for Senate Bill 29 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Honorable members of the Senate Resources Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter supports Senate Bill 29 BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD.

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI's approximately 50,000 members and 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI-AK) is a 501c4 conservation non-profit Corporation established in Alaska in 1977. We currently have over 1,200 members. Our mission statement is "First for Hunters - First for Wildlife."

The Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) plays an important role in managing the activities of commercial game hunters in the interest of the State's wildlife resource—a resource that SCI AK seeks to protect for the benefit of all users as well as future generations. The legislature included funding for a range 23 Executive Administrator in the FY 2024 budget and, as a result, a temporary exempt, range 23, Executive Administrator position was created and filled in 2024. SB 29 would codify the position, authority, and its range into law allowing the department to create a full-time regular exempt position.

BGCSB having an executive director to manage the expertise currently provided by volunteer board members is necessary for smooth board operations which, in turn, allow commercial service providers to operate with a degree of surety. We note the positive outcome of the recent BGCSB audit, included in the bill documents, as evidence that the board is properly serving its function. SCI AK kindly requests that your committee pass this key piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

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

ALASKA

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February 4, 2025

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
State Capitol Room 3
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support for SB29

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association strongly supports Senate Bill 29, and we thank you for introducing this legislation. This bill seeks to provide an executive administrator position in support of the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB).

The BGCSB oversees a complex set of statutes, regulations, and policy to regulate the activities of all hunting guides and transporters in Alaska. This responsibility requires administrative support from the Division of Licensing. Due to the complexity of this program, it is important to maintain long-term, full-time staff that possess a high degree of industry-specific knowledge.

Without an executive administrator position, support of this program falls to license examiner positions. While these jobs are staffed with hardworking people, the nature of the position is that it is often used as a steppingstone to a higher-level position. Rarely are license examiners in a position for more than just a few years. This is simply not long enough to develop the critical industry-specific knowledge required to maintain a successful program.

The APHA strongly supports the creation of an executive administrator and appreciates you sponsoring SB80.

Respectfully,



Sam Rohrer,
President
Alaska Professional Hunters Association