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April 15, 2018

Senate Finance
Co-Chair Senator Anna MacKinnon
Alaska State Capitol Building, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: HB 267 – An Act requiring the release of certain records relating to big game hunters, guided hunts, and guided sport fishing activities to municipalities for of taxes payable; and providing for an effective date.

Dear Co-Chair MacKinnon,

The Alaska Municipal League is in full support of HB 267. The premise is simply that larger municipalities are not always aware of hunters/hunting guides and sport fishing guides that may access land within their boundaries for the purpose of hunting and fishing as part of a business transaction. Some of these municipalities levy some sort of a tax on these business transactions and would like to be able to gather just the needed information in order to make contact with these businesses so as to provide them with the necessary forms/information so they can remit the required taxes.

There have been questions in other committees about the “possibility” of this information being used in the wrong way. Municipalities already have taxing authority, and their tax departments handle confidential material on an on-going basis. This bill would allow for municipalities to gather the needed information that would then help provide municipalities collect funds already on their books. Every bit of help that we can get in the passage of legislation that enables us to do our job more efficiently and effectively, helps the State as a whole.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director