

## 2011 Board Members

Eldon Mulder - *Board Chair*  
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Ron Rainey - *Vice Chair*  
Ron's Alaska Lodge - Retired

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CPA, Thomas, Head & Greisen

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Tesoro Northstores - Retired

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Bill Eckhardt  
President, Alaska USA Federal  
Credit Union

Richard Erkeneff  
Owner, Kenai River Raven

Mike Felix  
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Mark Hamilton  
President, University of Alaska-  
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Reuben Hanke  
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Fishing

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Arctic Slope Regional Corp.

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Robert Penney  
Owner, PENCO Properties

Karen Rey, RN  
Territory Manager,  
Alaska St. Jude Medical

Gary Turner  
Director, Kenai Peninsula College



## KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

January 21, 2011

Senator Lesil McGuire  
State Capitol Building, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator McGuire:

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a 501 (c) 3 fishery conservation organization dedicated to preserving the greatest fishing river in the world – the Kenai – through program work in habitat protection, fisheries management, research, and angler education.

KRSA supports Senate Bill 24 (SB 24), which would establish the Sport Fishing Guide Services Board and licensing requirements for sport fishing guide-outfitters, sport fishing outfitters, sport fishing assistant guides, and sport fishing transporters. KRSA believes that the best interests of the state would be served through the establishment of a professional services board that ensures consistent and comprehensive standards in the guided sport fishing industry in Alaska. A professional services board will provide for accountability, quality control and self-regulation for this industry, similar in scope to the big game guide industry and other analogous industry groups.

The 2007 report from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on the *Economic Impacts and Contributions of Sportfishing in Alaska* demonstrated that sportfishing is a significant contributor to the Alaskan economy. With approximately 460,000 in sport fishing license sales and 2.5 million angler days in 2007, the sportfishing industry accounted for \$1.4 billion in direct expenditures, of which guided sport fishing generated \$641 million in expenditures and supported more than 7,000 jobs. On average there are close to 1,700 sport fishing business licenses and 2,000 sport fishing guide licenses sold in Alaska, of which 90% are issued to Alaska residents. As guided sport fishing is an integral component of the Alaskan economy, a sport fishing guide services board would establish a more stable, appropriate and accurate regulatory framework than currently exists, and would help assure that Alaska's sport fishing industry is in position to compete favorably in the marketplace with other world class destinations.

*Dedicated to preserving the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai.*

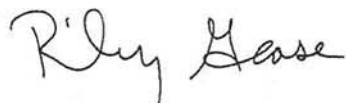
224 Kenai Avenue, Suite 102 • Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Phone: (907) 262-8588 • Fax: (907) 262-8582 • [www.kenairiversportfishing.com](http://www.kenairiversportfishing.com) • E-mail: [info@kenairiversportfishing.com](mailto:info@kenairiversportfishing.com)

In addition to the establishment of a guide services board, KRSA also supports other important aspects of SB 24, specifically the removal of sunset language on the guide logbook program. As the charter logbook program provides the Department with important information on guided angler activities and harvests, it is appropriate that sunset language be permanently removed on one of the important tools required for responsible management of our fisheries. The logbook program allows Alaska an exemption from the National Saltwater Angler Registry, a federal program that will begin levying fees for registration in 2011.

Thank you for your effort in sponsoring SB 24. We look forward to testifying in support of SB 24 as it moves through the Legislature this year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ricky Gease".

Ricky Gease  
KRSA Executive Director