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Senator Kevin Meyer
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 518
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer,

I have previously submitted written testimony opposing SB 79 and I also wanted to write you personally regarding this subject. I am well aware that KRSA and SEAGO are in favor of this bill but to date, neither organization has attempted to explain what the problem is that they are trying to fix. ***The absence of problem identification, the fundamental first step in the problem solving process, cannot be ignored, especially when legislation is being considered.***

Absent a defensible problem statement, I can only guess that proponents of this bill think it would ease the implementation of limited access for charter guides on the Kenai River and perhaps elsewhere in Alaska. I suggest that the limited entry criteria specified in the Alaska Constitution will likely be difficult to satisfy. Establishment of limited entry for fishing guides solves no conservation purpose unless unguided access is also limited. Likewise it would be difficult if not impossible to prove that economic stability within the guided industry would be promoted by imposition of limited entry in any area. I suggest that either the Board of Fish or legislative processes are more appropriate venues for such action, as both afford the transparency and opportunity for full public participation in the process.

Senator Meyer, I again suggest that this legislation be tabled or withdrawn and suggest that proponents might be wise to provide the next sponsor with a defensible problem statement before trying to push this bill through for the fourth time. Finally, should you choose to sponsor this legislation in a future session, I hope that you will take the time to pre-file the legislation as well as actively solicit public opinion as was done by Senator McGuire last year. Pre-filing gives the public more time to provide their input and the senators more time to consider the issues.

Respectfully,



Rex Murphy