

From: Robert Mumford
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 3:19 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: SB160

Senator Giessel,

I wanted to convey my support of SB160 and the Guide Concession Program.

As you know, Alaska has a highly active guiding industry. In many areas of the state, the perception is that the industry is too active. Over-crowding issues are becoming more and more the norm in many places. Resident hunters are increasingly frustrated, especially in the non-drawing permit areas for Dall Sheep. I get many complaints from the public demanding changes to the hunting regulations that seek to reduce the in-the-field crowding issues.

That said, we also have to recognize that the resident hunters are also part of the problem and that there is evidence that non-resident "guide required" hunters are actually declining. However, many of the complaints that I have heard from non-residents also include the over-crowding issue. I have had several non-residents state that they would "no longer seek to hunt Alaska", in favor of hunting sheep in Canada, where crowding is less of an issue.

The Guide Concession Program would be an effective program to help reduce the over crowding, at least by the guides. This is not a statewide issue. Yet several high profile areas are in the spots that are the most over-crowded. This concession program is especially needed in these areas.

I have many friends in the guiding industry and although some oppose the program, most favor it, even in the knowledge that some guides will be required to change their business strategies. You'll probably hear from some guides that will say that the program will put them out of business. I personally don't see it but I do know many guides that will make the "run me out of business" statement for any regulation that they don't like. I have yet to see one actually go out of business though.

The concession program has been in the works for several years now, I sure hope it will go forward from here,

Thank You,

Respectfully,

Bob Mumford