

Senator Charlie Huggins,

My name is Joey Klutsch, Registered Guide 1277, and I am writing to express my full support of SB 190 and thank you for sponsoring it. I have been in the guiding business my entire life. I grew up in it, working for my way from the bottom up. I starting as a packer and paid my dues, became an Assistant Guide, a Class- A Assistant and finally earned my Registered Guide License. I was taught by the best and now for the first time I am running my own guide operation with my own Federal Permits. I feel that as a young guide I represent the future of guiding in Alaska. However, guiding in Alaska will have no future if there is not a way for people to work their way up, the way myself and so many others did, or if there is no way for Registered/Master Guides to hire the employees needed to run a quality guiding business.

It is essential that the state of Alaska stops overregulating the guiding industry. The latest issue regarding "packers" and what they can and cannot do is a perfect example. If contracting guides are not able to employ packers that can perform duties traditionally associated with the job, it will be impossible to run a viable guide business. It will also become very difficult to work your way up in the business in a way that is economically feasible. Why would anyone ever want to sign on as an "apprentice or packer" and not be able to do ANYTHING of use or value for the employing Registered/Master Guide, and have to "work" in that capacity for several seasons just to earn their Assistant Guide license? What is worse in this example, if an individual were to finally earn their Assistant Guide license, they would have virtually none of the necessary skills required to be a guide, because they did not and could not (legally) learn them while acting as a packer. The packer position is a necessary training step to becoming a guide. Simple as that.

Being a packer for several years and then becoming an Assistant Guide is how most people including myself got into the business. Taking away a packer's ability to do his traditional job without "over supervision and regulation" will completely eliminate all of the learning involved, which will in turn will lead to fewer qualified Assistant Guides. This will spell ruin to the industry. As I have said, how can one gain the proper experience to become an Assistant Guide if one is not able to work at some level of independence and perform certain tasks (spotting game, judging animals, client relation skills, hide care, meat care, setting up camp, and so much more) that are essential to being a guide? It is for these reasons that SB 190 is so critical, and I am so thankful that you have taken the time to sponsor it.

Thank You again for your efforts, and for supporting the guiding industry.

Sincerely,

Joey Klutsch

Registered Guide 1277

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: Packer in the field

-----Original Message-----

From: Clifford Smith [<mailto:clifford@triplecouthittersalaska.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:58 PM

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins

Subject: Packer in the field

Hello clifford smith here a APHA member, and contracting registered guided. Thanks for helping change the rules for packers in the field. I do not wish it to get any more complicated than it already is with rules and regulations governing us guides in our service based industry. Good luck and thanks clifford

Sent from my iPad

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB190

From: Parker Guide Service [<mailto:parkerguideservice@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB190

Dear Senator Mr. Huggins:

We want to express our support for your Packer / Apprentice bill SB190 and thank you for sponsoring it. It is very much needed and look forward to its passage.

Sincerely
Bruce & Ann-Marie Parker

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Parker Guide Service
Bruce & Ann-Marie Parker
P.O. Box 6290
Sitka, AK. 99835
(907)747-6026
Fax: (907)747-8576
Cell: (907)738-6760
parkerguideservice@gmail.com
www.alaskaboatcruises.com

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB190

From: Mike Munsey [<mailto:mmunsey@starband.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB190

Sen. Huggins,

I just wanted to thank you for introducing and supporting SB190 (Big Game Guiding Packers/Apprentice). We appreciate your support and if there is anything you need from me to help the bill along, I would be happy to provide it. Thanks again.

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Mike Munsey
Munsey's Bear Camp

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB190

From: Keegan McCarthy [<mailto:keegan@coastalalaskaadventures.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:50 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Beth Kerttula
Subject: SB190

Hello,

I am a life long Juneau resident and owner of a hunting guide/outfitter business based out of Juneau.

I am writing in support of SB 190, which would allow guides to hire help for certain duties to be performed by an individual not licensed by the big game commercial services board.

In short, as a locally owned and operated business , this bill is very important to the survival of small businesses such as mine. Also, had I not been able to be hired many years ago as such an employee, it would have limited my ability to gain experience in the industry and eventually start my own business.

I hope you will all work to support this important legislation, and I thank Senator Huggins for introducing it and supporting industry and small business in Alaska.

--

Keegan McCarthy-Owner/Operator/Guide
[Coastal Alaska Adventures](#)
[Alaska's Premier Yacht Based Hunts](#)
(907) 723-3006

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: Guide.packer legislation SB190

From: Wildman [<mailto:wildmanlake lodge@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 6:22 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Cc: APHA Alaska Professional Hunter Association
Subject: Guide.packer legislation SB190

Senator Charlie Huggins

Hello Charlie,

Gary "Butch" King, Master Guide, here.

I have been at it since starting as Lee Holen's campboy in 1966 at the Wrangell Mountain Lodge. I started at the bottom, stayed with a good operation, became a partner, bought the old man out when he retired, bought the neighbor out when he retired. After 39 years, sold one operation to a young couple coming up just as I did, not taking from others or asking the government for help or assistance, but working for what they have.

My wife and I are still working at it every waking day. I am still flying, guiding and providing a good tourism service that the State of Alaska should be proud of. Trained a lot of good men along the way. I have asked nothing from the State in return, but to be left alone! Have employed 20 to 50 Alaskans a year, paid hundreds of thousands in work comp, ESC, State DNR leases, Borough Leases, Borough Taxes, Dept of Commerce license fees and 45 year of hunting and fishing licenses. I do business with local stores, air taxis, vendors and service providers. Our family owned business brings roughly a million tourism dollars a year to the State of Alaska.

I PAY MY BILLS AND HAVE PAID MY DUES!

It is now my turn to speak up! The State bureaucracy is taking its toll on this Master Guide and the rest of us who are just trying to bring simple tourism dollars to Alaska. We have asked nothing in return and have received nothing from the State except regulation on top of regulation, for decades. While this industry has employed thousands and brought in millions, we have received nothing, yet ask for nothing! Not a penny of Alaska's huge tourism budget goes to promote hunting or even guided sport fishing for that matter. Yet we are happy to just continue to do it our own!

Just tell Juneau to quit making more laws that make it even more difficult than it already is for us to operate in Alaska's most remote outposts. Juneau does not seem to understand that we Alaskan Guides and Outfitters are in a competitive industry! Canada, Mexico, Africa and even Russian, Kajikastan and China have become more attractive than Alaska to the hunter who travels. Again, guides and outfitters, as Alaska's original form of tourism ask nothing from the State other than quite making our job more difficult!

I appreciate your sponsoring this important SB 190. New entries and youngsters **MUST** have a place to start, if our industry is to survive. The State has made it so unreasonably difficult and overly expensive for even the most qualified candidate to become come an assistant guide that our labor pool has all but diminished. Everyone cannot start at the top, we must provide opportunity to enter at the bottom of the ladder and work your way to the top. Or is that concept totally lost in todays world?

Keep up your good work and spread the word.

Sincerely,

Gary "Butch" King - Master Guide

www.wildmanlodge.com

www.WildAlaskaHunting.com

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB190

-----Original Message-----

From: Cash Joyce [<mailto:cashjoyce@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 8:09 PM

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins

Subject: SB190

Go champ, thank you for your efforts!
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Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB190

From: James P. Jacobson [<mailto:huntfish@ak.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 1:48 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: SB190

3-5-14 Dear Senator Huggins,

Thank you for introducing SB 190. This will allow guiding in Alaska to continue without unreasonable restrictions on packers or apprentice guides.

Best regards,

Jake Jacobson, Alaska Master Guide #54

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: Packer legislation

-----Original Message-----

From: Harvey Harms [<mailto:alaskatrophy@icloud.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 2:20 PM

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins

Subject: Packer legislation

Dear Mr. Huggins,

During my 46 years guiding hunters, I have trained dozens of highly respected guides, starting them out as packers. I currently have 3 registered and assistant guides who work for me that worked as packers for 3 to 7 years before I let them take a hunter on their own as an assistant or registered guide.

The late famous Pinnell and Tollofson used from 1 to 3 assistant guides on their Kodiak hunts for over 40 years.

Every profession has some sort of entry level or intern position.

Without a packer or trainee position how is a prospective guide to learn the hundreds of nuances of guiding hunters?

That being said guides should not be able to let a packer guide a hunter without an assistant, registered, or master guide be in the field with them.

Feel free to e mail me if you need technical information about this.

Sincerely,

Dennis Harms. Alaska Master Guide #48

Sent from my iPad

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: RE SB190

From: Jeff Chadd [<mailto:sheephunter@maiesticmountainoutfitters.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE SB190

Charlie,

Thanks a lot for your support on this bill it is crucial for our industry.

Jeff



P.O. Box 5036, Forsyth, MT 59327

406-347-5401

www.majesticmountainoutfitters.com

 This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB 190

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Bishop [<mailto:frankabishopawa@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 9:14 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB 190

Honorable Mr Huggins

I would like to take this time to thank you for sponsoring SB190 This bill is very much needed to give the guide industry a way to do business the way we have traditionally as it is now we can't hire anyone to even pack a animal without breaking the law this has a very negative economic impact on hiring Help from the bush where young people are hard pressed for work anyway!

Thank you again for your time and work in this!

**Frank A Bishop
Master Guide # 191
po box 2491
Kodiak Ak 99615**

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: SB 190

From: Sue Entsminger [<mailto:wildsue@aptalaska.net>]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 2:54 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: SB 190

Honorable Senator Huggins,

I have met you several times and thank you for your involvement in the guiding history. I am a Registered Guide #1058, & my husband, Frank Entsminger is Class-A Assistant # 459. We both want to thank you for introducing this important bill to clarify the craziness about packers needing a license. Thank-you very much. Keep up the good work,

Sue & Frank Entsminger
HC 72 Box 800
Tok, AK 99780
wildsue@aptalaska.net
<http://tokmanagementarea.com/guides.html>
907-883-2833 Hm
Cell 907-632-5315 [only when traveling]

Gary Zepp

To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: RE: Comments on SB 190

From: info@mountainmonarchs.com [mailto:info@mountainmonarchs.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 08, 2014 1:49 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: Comments on SB 190

Dear Senator Huggins,

I am a licensed Master Guide & Outfitter (#81) and a veteran Alaskan guide of 40 years.

Thank you for your introduction of SB 190.

Assistant guides have to start out somewhere. That somewhere is in the trenches serving as a packer and camp help under a Master or Registered Guide Outfitters supervision.

This serves as the apprenticeship program for our industry. All trades have an apprenticeship program of some sort.

Personally I feel the Troopers and State of Alaska are out of line in this instance.

Through your bill which I highly support we are able to clarify and reinforce our ability to insure the viability and future of our industry which brings in Millions of new dollars each year to Alaska's tourism industry.

Thanks once again for your efforts and time spent introducing and backing this bill.

Very Best Regards,

Dave Leonard/ Master Guide & Outfitter

Mountain Monarchs of Alaska LLC

Gary Zepp

To: Henry D. Tiffany IV
Subject: RE: March 11th testimony on SB 190

From: Henry D. Tiffany IV [<mailto:henrydtiffaniv@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 3:39 PM
To: Gary Zepp
Subject: March 11th testimony on SB 190

Dear Mr. Zepp,

Mr. Kelly Vrem contacted me about being available and willing to testify on behalf of SB 190 and I am most certainly willing and able to testify in support of SB 190. As a lifelong Alaskan, Master Big Game Guide & Outfitter and Big Game Commercial Services Board member I am happy to testify as to the importance of SB 190, which will help the guiding industry to operate in a reasonable and practical manner, as it has for decades, with regards to allowing a guide to delegate certain tasks to individuals in the field who contribute to helping provide and operate a safe, lawful and ethical hunting endeavor and operation and enable individuals to learn to become a qualified and competent guide.

As such, I will be available from 1:30 PM – 3 PM on March 11th, 2014 to testify on the proposed legislation and will be happy to call into the necessary hearing number.

All the best,

Henry D. Tiffany IV

Gary Zepp

To: Cabot Pitts
Subject: RE: SB190- Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

From: Cabot Pitts [<mailto:alaskawildwind@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 5:44 PM
To: Gary Zepp
Subject: SB190- Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Dear Gary,

My name is Cabot Pitts and I am a registered guide and outfitter. Kelly Vrem forwarded your email about potential testimony for SB 190. I was just up in Fairbanks for the Big Game Commercial Services Board meetings and Kelly mentioned this to me over lunch on Saturday. If you would like I do not mind testifying for SB 190. Please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cabot Pitts
Alaska Registered Guide and Outfitter #1299
Alaska Wild Wind Adventures
alaskawildwind@gmail.com
(907)414-5434
www.alaskawildwind.com

Senator Michael Dunleavy
Chairman Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 510
Juneau AK, 99801
(907) 465-6011

Subject: SB 190

March 27, 2014

Dear Senator Dunleavy,

Based on assurances by the staff of SB190's sponsor that the word "delegate" in the first paragraph does not apply to section "b", it appears the concerns expressed in my letter, dated March 17, 2014, have been addressed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff and Senator Huggins and his staff for the work on CS SB190.

I would like for my letter of March 17, 2014 to remain in the documentation for SB190.

Respectfully

Joe Want
907-750-4736
wantj43@gmail.com

From: Wayne [<mailto:args@mtaonline.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 10:18 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins
Subject: airplane engine, spring bear and SB190 and SB160

Senator Huggins,

I've been way too busy and behind. I haven't shot my pistols in over a month, and was signed up for an advanced self defense class yesterday, but had to cancel. My airplane has taken a lot of time and money that I didn't have.

I can't remember if I told you or not, but I had to overhaul my engine again after only 300 hours and 3 years. I made my first working flight with it to bear camp today, then drained the oil when I got back. It used just over a quart in the first 10.7 hours, and seems to run smooth and have pretty good power. There sure isn't much snow up there, I think it's going to be challenging this year. My first hunter arrives Friday.

I watched the tape on SB190 but haven't heard where it when it will be heard next. Thanks again for sponsoring this. Same with SB 160. I watched and listened to it in Senate Resources and watched it move through there pretty fast. I know Senator Dyson had some hesitation, but ended up voting yes and thanked me for my email. I sure heard a lot of APHA bashing in Senate Resources, and talk to the effect that we want it all for ourselves. APHA did work hard to get something like this, but I don't see anything in the prospectus that says APHA members are going to fair any better in the prospectus process than any of the other guides. Most of us realize the real risk of being down sized or put out of business by not getting an area, but feel it is worth the risk if it improves the longevity and stability of the industry and wildlife resource, and even the public perception of registered guides, of whom 85% are Alaska residents. Whoever the ones are who get a concession, we feel their chance of being able to stay in business will be better than it is now.

If you have any information on when either bill will be heard next or if you have any questions, let me know. I'll be home most evenings until Friday.

Wayne Kubat

Alaska Remote Guide Service

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Phone/Fax:907-376-9568