



KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING
ASSOCIATION

2012- 2013 Board Members

Eldon Mulder - *Board Chair*
President, The Mulder Company

Reuben Hanke - *Vice Chair*
Owner, Harry Gaines Kenai River
Fishing

Kevin Branson - *Secretary &
Treasurer*
CPA, Thomas, Head & Greisen

Rik Bucy
Classic - VP
Tesoro Northstores - Retired

Kristin Mellinger
Women's Classic - VP
Arctic Slope Regional Corp. - Retired

Ross Baxter
Owner, Business Mechanic

Bill Eckhardt
President, Alaska USA Federal
Credit Union

Richard Erkeneff
Owner, Kenai River Raven

Mark Hamilton
President, University of Alaska -
Retired

Bill MacKay
Senior Vice President,
Alaska Airlines - Retired

Verne Martell
Former Anchorage Business Owner

Mack Padgett
Director of Upstream Drilling,
Production, & Operations System,
ConocoPhillips

Robert Penney
Founding Member

Ron Rainey
Ron's Alaska Lodge - Retired

Gary Turner
Director, Kenai Peninsula College

Jeremy Wallis
District Manager, The Home Depot

March 14, 2013

Senator Kevin Meyer
State Capitol Building, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer:

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 79 (SB 79), 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. In 2012 there were 1,263 sport fishing business licenses and 1,714 sport fishing guide license sold in Alaska, the large majority of which 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

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 • E-mail: info@kenairiversportfishing.com

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position to compete favorably in the marketplace with other world class destinations. SB 79 also provides for an electronic format for the logbook data, making this information more readily available for fisheries management, as well as for other forms, records and reports.

Thank you for your effort in sponsoring SB 79. We look forward to testifying in support of SB 79 as it moves through the Legislature this year.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ricky Gease". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Ricky Gease

KRSA Executive Director