

3 April 2013

Dear Senators-

Regarding SB 79, it is my understanding that the proponents are all Fishing Guides in the Kenai area. However, SB 79 is designed to be applicable to the entire state. As such, along with virtually every fishing guide not operating in the Kenai region, I am opposed to SB 79. I cannot address problems that may exist in the Kenai area nor legislation that might solve such, as all my guiding experience has been in southeast Alaska.

I am opposed to all of the below features of the bill.

- Provides another regulatory body (Guide Services Board) to an already heavily regulated industry
- Requires (unfunded) broad reporting requirements for the Board
- Provides "limited entry"
- Requires yet further examination of licensed (salt-water) guides. (Guides are currently required to submit proof of a minimum of 365 days experience on the water including 90 days within the past three years, and pass extensive Coast Guard exams in safety, navigation, seamanship, aids to navigation, and met the minimum physical and current health standards as required by the Coast Guard, plus first Aid and CPR certification, have been cleared through a background investigation and issued a "TWIC," passed a recent drug test or be enrolled in a random testing program, hold a current ADF&G fishing license as well as a Guide license, have a current business license and carry a minimum of a million dollars liability insurance.) (Another question is who would create these proposed additional exams, and for what purpose? If it would be to insure knowledge of current fishing regs, I would submit only a fool would conduct sport fishing guiding without knowledge of the regs and the consequences of getting caught in violation. Those who would deliberately violate the law will do so irrespective of passing an exam certifying knowledge of the law.)
- Provides the Board to put sanctions on licenses. (The courts can do such now for fishing violations, and the Coast Guard can do that for violations of vessel safety and operation.)
- Provides the Board to report to Governor and legislature the economic impact of the industry. (Where would the funds come from for the Board to hire a qualified entity for the conduct of such a study?)

Respectfully submitted,

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