

Governor Bill Walker

2-23-2016

Lt. Gov. Byron Mallot

Senate Resource Comm. Chair Cathy Giessel

Senators Micciche, Coghill, and Stoltze

House Resources Comm. Chairs David Talerico and Benjamin Nageak

Representative Paul Seaton

Commissioner Sam Cotten

Senator Giessel:

Thank you for your service to Alaskans and for taking the time to read my comment.

I feel that the makeup of the Board of Game considering the recent nomination of yet another professional hunter interest begs your pointed scrutiny. This would give the Board a 4-3 majority of present or past guides. As an avid resident outdoorsman and hunter, I am frightened by the implied conflict of interest this inevitably brings, and therefore am feeling misrepresented by the Board who, by law, is charged with "conservation and development of our natural wildlife resources" (AS16.05.221) for the maximum use by and benefit for Alaskans by making policy thereof.

I listened to the SRC hearing 2/22 and was disturbed to hear appointee Turner's testimony to the effect that he thought guiding (the money) was a legitimate use of the resource. I have lived, and respect the rural lifestyle, but disagree that this is "maximum use by" or "maximum benefit for" Alaskans pursuant to Article 8 Sec 1-3, and the Owsichuk Decision. The lengthy AK Professional Hunters Association testimony following stated that APHA was heavily reliant on a pro-guide Board. Clearly guiding is commercial use. Exploitation of the resource for monetary gain. While some level of representation of the non-resident (guides) interest on the BoG is reasonable, I hold that it should be minimal. There can be no question as to the serious conflict of interest issue that arises here when deliberating and voting on wildlife management and allocation proposals.

With the growing tendency of the BoG limiting resident opportunity, documented dwindling of our wildlife resources, and the prospect of a majority of the Board sympathetic to commercial interests, I implore you to think hard, with Alaskans in mind, while discussing nominations and confirmations to the Board of Game.

Thank you for reading, I welcome your comments, and once again I appreciate your service.

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