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January 20, 2015

Re: Sport Fishing Guide License Program

Dear Rep. Cathy Munoz :

The Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association (JCBOA) represents charter fishing and nature viewing operators in the Juneau area. We are writing you to express our strong support for HB 41 for the reinstatement of the Sport Fishing Guide License Program.

We firmly believe that this program was not only in the best interests of the industry but also in the best interest of the public as it provided a fully functioning mechanism for ensuring that fishing guides and operators met certain industry standard safety requirements. This program had functioned for many years without any issues and served the public well.

Without this action there will be no avenue in place through ADF&G to properly process applications for Sport Fishing Guide Service providers or operators.

We thank you for your time and consideration...to reiterate we strongly encourage you to support HB 41 and the reinstatement of the Sport Fishing Guide License Program that was allowed to sunset on December 31, 2014.

Sincerely,

J. Kevin Burchfield
President