**2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 57 / HB 59

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Dave Talerico

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Natural Resources

**APPROPRIATION:** Land and Water Resources

**ALLOCATION:** Mining, Land and Water

**ADD:** Temporary Increment (FY18-19) of $1,000.0 Fed (1002)

**DELETE:**

**POSITIONS:** Add: 4 temporary positions

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment gives the DNR Division of Mining Land and Water authority to accept federal funds to implement the already developed Hunting Guide Concession Program (DNR GCP). Once the program receives the necessary start up money it supports itself from its own fee structure. BLM has indicated that it would prefer to fund a state program and defer to state management rather than implement and manage its own concession program. This is an opportunity to prevent further federal overreach in the hunting guide industry.

 Resident hunters are not managed or restricted by this program. Resident hunters and ethical guides need this program to alleviate crowding/unethical behavior. Currently DNR issues permits to an unlimited number of licensed guides in any area; DNR does not have a legal way to deny trespass.

 The DNR GCP underwent an extensive public process in its development. Both the Board of Game and the Big Game Commercial Services Board support the program. Its time Alaska’s hunting guide industry is put on equal footing with other resource industries that have their own state lease structures.