



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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February 8, 2019

To: Senate Resources Committee

Re: Confirmation of Big Game Commercial Services Board Members
Jason Bunch, Cash Joyce, and Tom Harris

Dear Chairman Birch and members of Senate Resources Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska wants to express our **support** for Jason Bunch to be reappointed for a guide seat on the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). Mr. Bunch filled a vacancy and in the year he has been on the board we have been very impressed with his work ethic, knowledge, and involvement at board meetings. He is a great asset to this board.

We also **support** Tom Harris for the Landowner seat on the board. Mr. Harris showed at the last meeting that he will engage the public and speak his mind to the board during deliberations. We welcome his long history and knowledge of Alaska wildlife management and food security issues.

Regarding Cash Joyce, who also filled a vacancy, unfortunately we must **oppose** his reappointment. It isn't that Mr. Joyce isn't highly qualified; he is. Nor is it that he isn't an asset to the board; we have found in his year tenure that he is an asset. The reason we must oppose Mr. Joyce for this seat is that he *holds both a guide and transporter license*. He initially applied for a guide seat. According to AS 08.54.591, regarding formation of this board, it states that:

(b) the board consists of nine members as follows:

- (1) two members who are current, licensed registered guide-outfitters;
- (2) two members who are licensed transporters;
- (3) one member of the Board of Game and who does not hold a guide or transport license;
- (4) two members who represent private land-holders affected by guided hunting activities or transportation services and who do not hold a license issued under this chapter
- (5) two public members

We had this discussion with the previous administration when Mr. Joyce was appointed, whether the statute prohibited a member of the board from holding both a guide and transporter license if serving in either seat. The Department of Law opinion was that the statute as written didn't preclude that from happening.

However, we don't believe it was the intent for the statute to allow such a thing. There are tensions and conflicts between the guide and transporter industries, and this board determines the regulations of both. We don't want to see continued instances like this where a seat designated for one licensee is allowed to be filled by one holding the license of another designated seat. It is an inherent conflict and not the way this board should operate.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

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