From: Nicole Schmitt
To: House Resources
Subject: Barrette Nomination
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:08:38 AM

Dear Members of the Alaska State House Resources Committee,

Please consider this statement for the April 12, 2019 committee hearing concerning nominees to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). I respectfully urge the rejection of nominee Mr. Al Barrette.

My first concern with Mr. Barrette regards his ethics. Mr. Barrette did not recuse himself from voting on the Denali buffer zone issue even though his personal business could profit from the removal of the zone since it would lead to increased wolf trapping opportunities. This is a clear ethics violation. Additionally, Mr. Barrette does not seem to listen to local communities. During the March 2010 BOG meeting, he voted against restricting trapping in residential areas in Healy, despite strong local support from Healy residents and community concerns about pets being inadvertently trapped and killed near homes.

I also have concerns over Mr. Barrette's ability to adhere to scientific, rather than religious, evidence for wildlife management. During an interview with Backpacker Magazine, Mr. Barrette was videoed skinning a wolf and saying "*It specifically puts out in the first book of the Bible, in Genesis, that we should subdue nature and control it. We should be the managers of the animals and through the sin of Adam and Eve is what brought it on and in fact the first clothes that were made for Adam and Eve were skins of animals by God*". I strongly believe in religious freedoms and Mr. Barrette's rights to live by these tenants as a private citizen, but in the public domain I have concerns that he will defer to religious-based decisions instead of science.

Further, Mr. Barrette's views on predator control are extreme for the Board of Game. After voting to repeal the Denali Buffer Zone, Mr. Barrette suggested the BOG authorize using a snow machine to harvest wolves in the "old" buffer zone. No other members supported the ideas and even the 2010 BOG Chairman, Cliff Judkins, was quoted as saying "I just cringe at the thought of a snow machine running down the park boundary chasing wolves – it's almost beyond me."

Mr. Barrette is also reckless in his lack of due diligence. When questioned about why he advocated for commercial guides (and potentially non-residents) to be allowed 10 bait stations (when Alaskan residents are only allocated 2 stations), and if prior to voting there was discussion about that violating the Alaska constitution's equal access clause, Mr. Barrette said he thought the majority of the board was in favor of allowing guides to have more bear baits because it would be safer and more efficient in the field, and that while he did vote in favor of more bear baits, he did not know if it violated Alaska's constitution as he did not seek professional review . This lack of regard for constitutional authority, mixed with Mr. Barrette's repeated advocacy for out of state interests, is concerning for a position with this much power and oversight.

Finally, Mr. Barrette's voting record reflects that he regularly favors non-resident hunters' rights over resident and subsistence hunters' rights.

Thank you for your consideration of this statement.

Sincerely,

Nicole Schmitt
Anchorage Resident