



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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March 15, 2021

To: House Resources Committee

Re: Board of Game Appointments

Dear Chairman Patkotak and members of the House Resources Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) strongly **opposes** the appointment of two more guides – **Lynn Keogh & Jake Fletcher** – to the Board of Game. We supported Al Barrette, a guide from Fairbanks, during the last appointment cycle, and we feel Mr. Barrette is an asset to the Board of Game. We have always supported Stosh Hoffman, now a retired guide, and we support his reappointment this cycle.

However, we cannot support the addition of two more guides to the Board of Game, as it would completely unbalance the board in favor of commercial interests. It is a setback as well to resident hunters, especially when the Governor chose not to reappoint Tom Lamal, the only member who supported a resident hunting priority per our state constitution.

We are not opposing these two nominees based on their qualifications. They are both qualified, but that alone does not constitute a reason to support these appointments. This is about having a balance of interests on the board.

There are on average 100,000 Alaskans who purchase a hunting license and contribute more than a billion dollars to the Alaska economy annually.<sup>1</sup> There are 1,230 licensed guides, *of which over a quarter are nonresidents*.<sup>2</sup> Put in context, Alaska resident guides make up less than 1% of our resident hunting population yet effectively hold 50% of Board of Game seats.

We have always made Board of Game appointment recommendations to the Governor and Boards and Commissions. Applications from those individuals are in the current list of applicants. We would be happy to pass their names on to the committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mark Richards – Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska

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<sup>1</sup> [Resident Hunter Economic Impacts](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Big Game Commercial Services Board, Active Guide Licensees \(download Excel file\)](#)