

House Resources Committee
Public Testimony Packet
Board of Game Appointments
Received as of 3.16.21

Hello,

I believe adding 2 more guides to the board of game is bad for Alaskan residents and for Alaska. Many guides are always fighting for ways to get more clients and make more money. Yet some are always busy and booked ahead of time. This is because some guides are worth their weight and fees, and some simply are not. Those that are not try to influence legislation so they can force more clients to pay. The fact is, those that cannot afford to pay a guide for sheep, goat, or brown bear are the ones that come to Alaska to hunt moose, caribou, black bear etc. I believe it is very likely that rather than forcing non residents to pay guides, they will end up turning away more hunters and thereby revenue for the state as well.

I watched this battle take place in Montana (where I was a guide) and it was not good for anyone. I oppose adding more guides (it is already stacked in their favor) to the board and I believe you should too.

Jeff Wieber

Anchorage, Alaska

I am writing to urge you to oppose Lynn Keogh to the Board of Game. Mr. Keogh has previously been denied due to numerous fish and wildlife violations dating all the way back to 1995. Mr. Keogh puts more faith in anecdotal comments than scientific and biological evidence- as a biologist, I cannot stand for this. Mr. Keogh does not bring a diversity in views or points of interest. Mr. Keogh has direct ties to the Alaska Trappers Association, so if confirmed 2/7 BoG members will be part of the Alaska Trappers Association, which is 30% of the Board. Additionally, Mr. Keogh has been denied to the BoG over bipartisan concern over his character.

Again, I urge you to oppose Keogh.

Thank you for representing my community.

Sincerely,
Katy Nalven

Sent from my iPhone

February 24, 2021

Dear Legislators:

The State Board of Game and the higher positions in the ADFG are currently composed of hunters, trappers, taxidermists, big game guides, representatives of organizations like the Alaska Outdoor Council, Outdoor Heritage

Foundation, Safari Club International and the Resource Development Council. None are non-consumptive users. None shoot with a camera.

The Alaska Constitution, Article 8, section 3 states that: "Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved *to the people for common use.*"

Yet there are only 3500 trappers in Alaska (there are 731,000 residents). Adding another trapper to the Board guarantees continued imbalance, poor representation and poor wildlife management.

The best way to continue this embarrassment and inequity is to appoint prolific trapper and long-time violator of wildlife regulations **Lynn Keogh** to the Board.

Don't do it.

He was rejected in 2016 for good reasons. Do it again.

Sincerely,

Mark Luttrell

Seward

Alaska House Resources Committee Member,

Oppose the addition of two more guides (Jake Fletcher & Lynn Keogh) to the Board of Game.

There are on average 100,000 Alaskans who purchase a hunting license and contribute more than a billion dollars to the Alaska economy annually. I am one of those 100,000 Alaskan hunters!!!!!! There are 1,230 licensed guides, of which a quarter are nonresidents. 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. Stacking the Board of Game with guides or supporters of the commercial hunting industry disenfranchises resident hunter interests and gives the guide industry and nonresident hunters outsized influence over our wildlife resources and allocations.

On Wednesday March 17th, do the right thing and oppose the addition of two more guides to the Board of Game!

Dean Eisberg

Eagle River, AK 99577

House Resources;

In the strongest terms I oppose the appointment of two more commercial hunting guides to the Board of Game. These appointments are a betrayal of the trust Alaskan's put in the current governor in electing him to that office. These appointments disenfranchise Alaska's resident voice on this most important board. With currently 117,000 Alaskans holding hunting licenses we need to have some noncommercial input to this board. The commercial hunting guides have controlled the Board of Game since its inception, at the expense of Alaska's residents, giving preference to their commercial interests and nonresident hunters by allocating in favor to nonresidents in such hunts like Kodiak brown bear permits where the nonresidents receive up to 40 % of the permits. Other examples of these unconstitutional allocations to nonresidents can be found. Like 50% of the trophy permits in the Nowitna River permit hunts allocated to nonresidents and shockingly the guide-controlled Board of Game made 7 of the 10 nonresident permits must-be-guided with only one guide permitted to hunt the area and that guide (self)serving on the Board of Game. I have had enough and have filed suit in Anchorage Superior Court for the unconstitutional allocation of Alaska's brown bears via a permit hunt on Kodiak Island to nonresident hunters. I have never received a permit to hunt brown bears on Kodiak with nonresident hunters guaranteed to receive a permit via the guide allocation scheme and some nonresidents killing more than one brown bear. The State of Alaska is assuming liability for these guide-proposed unconstitutional allocation regulations promulgated by the Board of Game.

Respectfully;

Robert Cassell

Dear Chair Patkotak and members of the House Resources Committee,

I am strongly opposed to the appointment of two more guides (Lynn Keogh & Jake Fletcher) to the Board of Game. Currently the majority of the Board of Game members already represent or have ties to the commercial interests of the Alaskan hunting and fishing industry. In light of this, I believe appointment of Lynn Keogh & Jacke Fletcher would unbalance the interests of the board in favor commercial interest and leave no room for the voice of Alaskan resident hunters and fishers.

Sincerely,

-Steve Gabrielsen

North Pole, AK

March 15, 2021

Dear Legislators:

The State Board of Game and the higher positions in the ADFG are currently composed of hunters, trappers, taxidermists, big game guides, representatives of organizations like the Alaska Outdoor Council, Outdoor Heritage Foundation, Safari Club International and the Resource Development Council. None are non-consumptive users. None shoot with a camera.

The Alaska Constitution, Article 8, section 3 states that: "Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use."

Yet there are only 3500 trappers in Alaska (there are 731,000 residents). Adding another trapper to the Board guarantees continued imbalance, poor representation and poor wildlife management.

The best way to continue this embarrassment and inequity is to appoint prolific trapper and long-time violator of wildlife regulations Lynn Keogh to the Board.

Don't do it.

He was rejected in 2016 for good reasons. Do it again.

Sincerely,

Mark Luttrell

Seward

Dear Representative Patkotak,

I urge you to vote no on the re-appointment of Lynn Keogh to the Board of Game. I have spent more than twenty years trying to convince members of the Board of Game to enact reasonable restrictions limiting the placing of large dog-killing traps next to or in popular trails used by hikers and skiers. Twenty years ago I was on a sub committee of the Board of Game appointed to address the problem of dog killing and maiming traps set near trails used by numerous recreational hikers and skiers. The purpose of the subcommittee was to seek consensus between trappers and recreational users. The geographic area addressed was basically Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, and the northern part of the Kenai Peninsula. I had a role in getting the BOG to appoint that subcommittee, and we purposefully limited the geographic scope to those heavily populated areas near Anchorage used by thousands of recreational hikers and skiers.

Mr. Keogh was also on that subcommittee. We met six times over a period of more than a year. Mr. Keogh started his comments at every meeting with a string of insults hurled at me and the non-trappers who also served. Ultimately, he agreed to absolutely nothing to address the problem of dogs being caught in traps on popular trails. Not even a buffer for large Connibear 330 traps.

I recognize that you represent a district on the North Slope, but nevertheless, I hope you will consider the needs of Anchorage in regard to Mr. Keogh's proposed re-appointment. Here, in Anchorage, the Anchorage Assembly voted in May, 2019 for an ordinance that establishes no trapping buffers of 50 yards from expressly designated trails, and no trapping buffers of a quarter mile from trail heads, designated campgrounds and permanent dwellings. That ordinance and the positive 9-2 vote in its favor reflects the sentiments of most Anchorage residents who recreate on our public lands.

Mr. Keogh is the only member of the Board of Game from Anchorage. I am not complaining about under representation on the BOG. On the other hand, I am asking that the one member of the BOG from Anchorage be a person who shares the values of the people of Anchorage; at least in regard to trapping of dogs on trails.

Mr. Keogh is a determined opponent of any restrictions on placing of traps on trails, near trail heads, etc. He has proven that for many years. His continued membership on the Board of Game is a slap in the face to those of us who try to bring about modest, responsible change. Please vote no on his re-appointment.

Thank you, Kneeland Taylor
