

House Resources Committee  
Public Testimony Packet  
Board of Game Appointments  
Received after meeting on 3.17.21

To Whom it May Concern,

I see you get to meet today on Board of Game appointees. I would like to voice my support specifically for Lynn Keogh and Jake Fletcher as they are both well rounded outdoorsmen that are mellow, easy going, open and intelligent Alaskans ready and willing to serve. Both these men are very easy to talk to, have tremendous history and respect for all outdoor users and stakeholders in our state. They will both serve Alaskans well going forward.

Thank you for your time,  
Becky Schwanke - lifelong hunter and trapper, former ADF&G wildlife biologist, Federally qualified subsistence user and an Assistant Big Game Guide  
Tazlina, AK  
99588

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Kathryn Lessard  
Chugiak 99567-5644,

Please support Lynn Keogh for the Board of Game. Lynn has a lifetime experience hunting, fishing and trapping in Alaska. Lynn has worked to resolve trapping conflicts. He is dedicated and fair minded. He is committed to serving. Thank You. Kathryn Lessard

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Dear House Resources committee members,

I am writing a letter in support of both Board of Game (BOG) appointments before you today, Lynn Keogh and Jake Fletcher.

I served 3 terms on the BOG (two terms as vice chairman) and had opportunity to work with both of these individuals through BOG processes. Both Mr. Keogh and Mr. Fletcher exhibited uncommon depth of knowledge and experience in wildlife issues in Alaska, and in their own areas of expertise particularly.

I worked with Lynn Keogh when we was previously appointed to the board and found him to be an active and thoughtful board member, fair with the public, and dedicated to finding solutions to the unique problems and decisions the BOG is faced with. Lynn is well known and respected in many parts of Alaska for being extremely knowledgeable and active in helping outdoor-oriented Alaskans in a variety of venues. I believe Lynn would serve the board well.

My first encounter with Jake Fletcher was that I noticed him sitting quietly through board processes day after day, over a period of a couple of years when the board was meeting in his region. I sought Jake out to introduce myself at one of the meetings and was quickly impressed with his quiet and thoughtful way of communicating, and his love for Alaska. I noticed also that he did not seem to have a personal agenda but rather a desire to understand better how the board functioned and how the processes worked. Combined with his humility, Jake's experience and knowledge as an active Registered guide is a valuable asset to maintain a well functioning board. I was previously the only other active Registered guide on the board in a nearly 20 period and found during this period that the public, other board members, and ADF&G at times struggled to understand the complexity of Alaska's guiding regulations, the differences between types of operations, and especially the final effect of regulation change in-the-field. Big game

guiding is highly regulated in Alaska, and it is important to have a registered guide bring this knowledge to the table for the benefit of both the public and other board members, and Jake has convinced me he is especially qualified for this position.

Nate Turner  
Nowitna River, Alaska

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This letter is in support of Lynn Keogh for Board of Game ..

Lynn is a life long Alaskan who has great respect for our wildlife resource.

The only people that are against him for being on the the Board of Game are the Self-centered Animal Rights folks.

I know Lynn will look at each issue with an open mind and every ones interest

Please Confirm Lynn Keogh for Board of Game ,

Thank You, Allen Dubord

Chugiak, Ak. 99567

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Dear House Resource Committee,

I would like to support Lynn Keogh for the Board of Game. Lynn is a lifelong Alaskan who is very knowledgeable of wildlife issues and will be an asset to the Board of Game.

I would like to state that I sent previous support but that support did not make it into the testimony for today's hearing.

What did make it in to today's written testimony is a letter from a person who attacks Mr. Keogh's character. He claims that Mr. Keogh was uncivil toward him during subcommittee proceedings 2 decades ago. He further asserts that Mr. Keogh failed to come to any consensus.

I too was a member of that subcommittee and I have no recollection of any uncivil comments by Mr. Keogh. Furthermore there was indeed consensus reached on at least 2 points, obviously including by Mr. Keogh.

Other comments in todays testimony refer to Mr. Keogh as serial wildlife violator in so many words. This is also untrue. Keogh did receive a citation relative to an outboard motor many years ago but that hardly qualifies him as a serial wildlife violator.

It is unfortunate that attempts at false character assassination are being made.

Please vote to support Lynn Keogh for the Board of Game.

Tom Lessard  
Chugiak

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I spent two terms in the late '70's-early '80's on the Ketchikan advisory committee on a game issue seat. I agree with Ted spraker about appointing Lynn Keogh and Jake

Fletcher to the game board, they have Alaskan's interest's at heart. Please do it , thank you Bob Jahnke.

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Dear House Resources Committee Members,

I am writing a letter in support of Stosh Hoffman's reappointment to the Alaska Board of Game. I apologise for the late submission of this letter.

I worked with Stosh on this board over a nine year period, and few members left me as deeply impressed as Stosh in his care for Alaska's wildlife, and the variety of values people hold for wildlife as Stosh has. Stosh has a deep knowledge of Alaska and especially rural Alaska, and the unique needs and perspectives of the western and northern parts of our state. Stosh also has exhibited a deep sense of fairness when considering the needs of all Alaskans, regardless of where they reside or what connection they have with the land.

He was a pleasure to work with on the board, too often stated that he didn't feel qualified to hold such an important position, and I saw that he strived to be fair in his consideration of other users who may not share his views or personal experience in Alaska.

Without hesitation, I would suggest it would be a loss to Alaska's wildlife management efforts to not allow Stosh to continue in the work as long as he desires to do so. It is important to maintain some level of continuity when so many board members are up for consideration, especially for the purposes of bringing forward past considerations to inform current deliberations as well as to provide a sense of continuity for those Alaskans who directly feel the effect of these board decisions: the public.

Nate Turner  
Nowitna River, Alaska

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3-17-21

Dear Representative Patkotak,

I am writing today in regards to the consideration of Lynn Keogh to the Board of Game.

I am asking you to vote against his appointment for the following reasons:

- I earlier checked Alaska's Court View and under Lynn Keogh & Lynn B. Keogh with a birthdate of 07/17/64 - there are 13 minor offenses.

It would seem that in addition to repeated fish and wildlife violations in 2004, 2009, and 1995, there are additional speeding violations as well. What this demonstrates is a lack of respect for fish and wildlife laws and even the most basic of traffic laws which seriously calls in to question his judgement.

I would recommend that you and other House members check Alaska Court View at: <https://courts.alaska.gov/main/search-cases.htm>. Be sure to conduct your search under: Trial Court Cases.

- While waiting for his confirmation to the BOG in 2012, Keogh refused to listen to advisement from ADF&G biologists. In fact, ADF&G testified that the issues of low calf production was a factor of bull to cow ratios, barren cows, and habitat concerns. This may have been compounded by an exploding snowshoe hare population competing for willows.
- In rejecting the scientific testimony of ADF&G, Keogh voted for wolf control in Game Management Area 15C and on aerial wolf control on the Kenai Peninsula without having any scientific basis for doing so.
- In 2012, denied having a conflict of interest with a BOG position even though he owns a guiding business.

If confirmed to the BOG, Lynn Keogh would provide no diversity or differing points of view to the BOG as a member of the Alaska Trappers Association and as a hunting/fishing guide.

Currently, there are no members on the BOG that represent the overwhelming majority of Alaska non-consumptive users such as: the Tourism Industry, tourists, wildlife enthusiasts & viewers, photographers, non-consumptive outdoor recreationist, environmentalists, and others who are interested in living wildlife.

In 2012, Mr. Keogh's confirmation was rejected by six House Republicans who voted against him over the above concerns. Has Mr. Keogh's made any verifiable changes in behavior, philosophy, or outlook to reconsider in favor of his nomination?

Has he made any verifiable changes over the past eight years where he is now committed to making fish & game decisions by using the best science available? If so, then what verifiable actions and proof can he provide that would demonstrate this?

- Also in 2012, Rod Arno sent an email to Republican Party Chairman Randy Ruedrich, threatening legislators in the November election if they didn't vote for Lynn Keogh's nomination to the BOG.

No individual or group should be allowed to threaten or intimidate government officials. This is especially important as wildlife (and other state resources) belong to all Alaskans; not just to one group or individual who is attempting to bully others to get their way.

With the questionable character of Lynn Keogh based on his past actions and the monopolization of the BOG with consumptive users; I ask that you vote against his nomination.

Sincerely,

Bill Watkins  
Anchorage, AK. 99517