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March 19, 2021

House Finance Committee  
32nd Alaska Legislature

Re: SCI-AK Support for House Bill 128

Honorable members of the House Finance Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI-AK) offers the following comments on House Bill 128.

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI-AK, founded in 1977, is nationally and internationally recognized for its contributions in support of SCI's four major mission areas: Advocacy, Conservation, Education, and Humanitarian Services.

SCI-AK is thankful for the governor's emergency order that allowed us to continue to raise funds via online raffle ticket sales. Without this, our mission for 2020/21 would have been severely impacted. A significant portion of SCI-AK's funding is generated by conducting charitable gaming in the form of raffle ticket sales. Our charitable gaming efforts support our mission to advocate for hunter rights and fund wildlife conservation projects.

SCI-AK financially supports outdoor education and high school archery/shooting sports programs. We annually send four Alaska Teachers to the American Wilderness Leadership School and also provide funds for hands-on education programs such as "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" (BOW) and "Youth Day at the Range" — a program that introduces Alaskan youth to aspects of hunting, shooting, and wildlife conservation. SCI-AK's humanitarian efforts support local food banks, and our "Warriors on Safari" program provides unforgettable experiences for our wounded warriors.

SCI-AK recognizes online raffles as a modern means to efficiently raise funds to support our missions; therefore, we support legislation that would allow selling raffle tickets online. In addition, we ask that the committee amend HB 128 to include the following:

- Eliminate the requirement for a purchaser to be a resident of the State of Alaska.
- Eliminate the requirement that the raffle licensee verify the age and location of the purchaser.
- Eliminate the prohibition on sales to people located out-of-state.
- For internet sales, the purchaser (and not licensee) shall verify:
  - That the individual is of legal age to purchase the raffle ticket.
  - That the individual resides in a state where the purchase of a raffle ticket is not prohibited.
  - Clarify that any such raffle governed by this bill occurs within the State of Alaska and the winner is determined in the State of Alaska.

Alaskans are bombarded by out-of-state interests offering online for-profit and charitable gaming raffles. Ducks Unlimited, Huntin' Fool, Wild Sheep Foundation (National), and others approach Alaskan sportsmen with offers to partake in their charitable games. Funds derived from the sale of these tickets goes to out-of-state organizations and adversely impacts the ability of local nonprofits to generate revenue.

Allowing SCI-AK, and similar conservation groups, to sell raffle tickets online would level the playing field and assist them in bringing money into the state of Alaska that benefits our core missions.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Jeff Gurness**  
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***Safari Club International Alaska Chapter***  
***First for Hunters - First for Wildlife***