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April 22, 2021

Senator Mia Costello, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
32nd Alaska Legislature

Re: SCI-AK Support for Senate Bill 77

Chair Costello and Honorable Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI-AK) offers the following comments on Senate Bill 77.

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 **section** of 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 supports outdoor education and high school archery/shooting sports programs. We send four Alaska teachers annually to the "American Wilderness Leadership School" and 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 outdoor experiences for our wounded warriors.

SCI-AK has recognized online raffles as a modern means to efficiently raise funds to support our mission. We support legislation that would allow selling raffle tickets online. In addition to this we ask that the committee amend SB 77 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 move out of state and adversely impact the ability of local nonprofits to generate revenue.

Allowing SCI-AK, and similar conservation groups, to sell raffle tickets online, in allowable states or districts, would level the playing field and allow them to bring money into the state to benefit their core missions.

Thank you for your consideration.

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