

**Abby St.Clair**

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**From:** Laura Caillet <I  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2021 6:44 PM  
**To:** Rep. George Rauscher  
**Subject:** House Bill 32

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Talkeetna Camper Park**

**Mile 13.7 Talkeetna Spur Road**

**Talkeetna, Alaska 99676**

Dear Rep Rauscher,

Hello my name is Laura Caillet and I am the owner and operator of Talkeetna Camper Park. We have been in business for 19 years and rely on summer tourism to make our living. We have a very small campground that is popular because of its close proximity to Main Street Talkeetna. Folks stay with us to explore and experience our small town.

I am writing to ask the Legislature to grant campgrounds immunity from civil liability for injuries and damages resulting from the conditions people expect from camping. We request that legislation provide that we are immune from civil liability for the inherent risks of camping similar to current Alaska statutes for inherent risk for the equestrian/livestock, skiing, and sports and recreation industries. Those inherent risks include natural conditions, uneven terrain, bodies of water, lack of lighting in the campground, weather, wildlife, and campfires. It is important to understand that we are **not requesting** civil liability immunity for acts of negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Camping remains popular because it continues to offer a truly natural experience. It involves staying in undeveloped areas featuring trails through woods and meadows. It allows families to spend time around a campfire, making lifelong memories in a place where there are no streetlights – to enjoy the natural world as it is. We provide guests with these unspoiled natural experiences as much as possible. The value of the camping experience is the variability and unpredictability of nature itself.

The very qualities campground guests seek, however, come with an element of risk beyond the operators control. When campground owners open trails without paving them with concrete, they create a risk of slips and falls. When they install fire pits on their campsites, they create the risk of burns. When they locate campsites along drive paths that are not lighted at night, they create the risk of a stumble. The things that make camping appealing also add some degree of risk. Campgrounds do their best to mitigate hazards. Again, we are not requesting civil liability immunity for acts of negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

**Please support House Bill 32.**

Respectfully,

Laura Caillet

Northern Nights Campground RV Park & Cabins  
Mailing address: 3705 Arctic Blvd PMB 371  
Anchorage, AK 99503

February 21, 2021

Representative George Rauscher  
Alaska State Legislator

RE: House Bill 32

Dear Representative George Rauscher:

My wife (Darlene Stemp) and I (Marc Stemp) have owned and operated the Northern Nights Campground RV Park & Cabins located at Mile Post 188.7 Glen Highway since 1989. We have built the business from the ground up. We are a small business that is Alaska Native owned which hires local residents.

I am writing to ask the Alaska Legislature to support House Bill 32 which concerns civil liability immunity for RV Parks/Campgrounds.

We have found that camping remains popular in particular due to the Covid 19 pandemic as it allows families to stay in natural areas that create family time around a campfire and to enjoy all that nature offers. We try our best to provide our guests with these unspoiled natural experiences.

However, these qualities come with an element of risk which is beyond the Campground owners/operators control. There are risks of slips and falls on the trails as well as a risk of burns from campsite fire pits. The natural setting which makes camping appealing has hazards that as Campground owners we do our best to mitigate.

We ask the Legislature to grant RV Parks/Campgrounds immunity from civil liability for injuries and damages resulting from the conditions people expect from camping similar to the current Alaska statutes for inherent risk for the equestrian/livestock, skiing, and sports and recreation industries. Those inherent risks include natural conditions, uneven terrain, and bodies of water, lack of lighting in the campground, weather, wildlife, and campfires.

To be clear we are not requesting civil liability immunity for acts of negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

Marc D. Stemp