

Chicken Gold Camp & Outpost
Dba Chicken RV Park
PO Box 70
Chicken, Alaska
99732

Dear Rep George Rauscher

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. Campground owners provide guests with these unspoiled natural experiences. 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. It is very important to make the point that we are not requesting civil liability immunity for acts of negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

We 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 statues for inherit 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 very important to make the point that we are not requesting civil liability immunity for acts of negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct.

Please support House Bill 32.

Respectfully,

Michael Busby, owner

Emma Busby, owner