

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: [office@alaskaprohunter.org](mailto:office@alaskaprohunter.org) ~ [www.alaskaprohunter.org](http://www.alaskaprohunter.org)

March 8, 2023

Senator James Kaufman  
State Capitol Room 115  
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative George Rauscher  
State Capitol Room 406  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support for SB34/HB83, Restarting CACFA

Dear Senator Kaufman and Representative Rauscher,

Thank you for sponsoring SB34/HB83. The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) supports the re-establishment of this important commission. For many years the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA), provided a valuable venue for engaging citizens, legislators and state officials on federal issues primarily related to implementation of the Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act (ANILCA). ANILCA is a broad suite of Alaska specific exclusions and exceptions to how federal conservation units are to be administered in Alaska. Consequently, ANILCA is in tension with the other Department of Interior Regions in the country. This tension requires constant vigilance and education to buffer agency tendencies to manage Alaskan refuges, parks, preserves and national forests like they manage the other conservation units in the lower 48. CACFA was created to fill the need for citizen engagement and education on the promises and rights guaranteed by ANILCA.

The APHA and the Alaska guide community still have active members who make their living on federal conservation units, that were guiding before ANILCA designated the land they still use as a park/preserve, refuge or national forest. As an organization, the APHA participated and represented hunting guide interests from inception to final passage of ANILCA. As a community, we fear the loss of knowledge of the guarantees that were made to our members to use historic camps, private inholdings, cabins and traditional forms of transportation. Our professional members are hunting guides, but are also often rural residents, trappers, sport fishermen and commercial fisherwomen too, all of which are outdoor and public land reliant lifestyles and passions. ANILCA was drafted in such a way as to protect, promote and ensure the continuation of these traditional

*Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.*

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: [office@alaskaprohunter.org](mailto:office@alaskaprohunter.org) ~ [www.alaskaprohunter.org](http://www.alaskaprohunter.org)

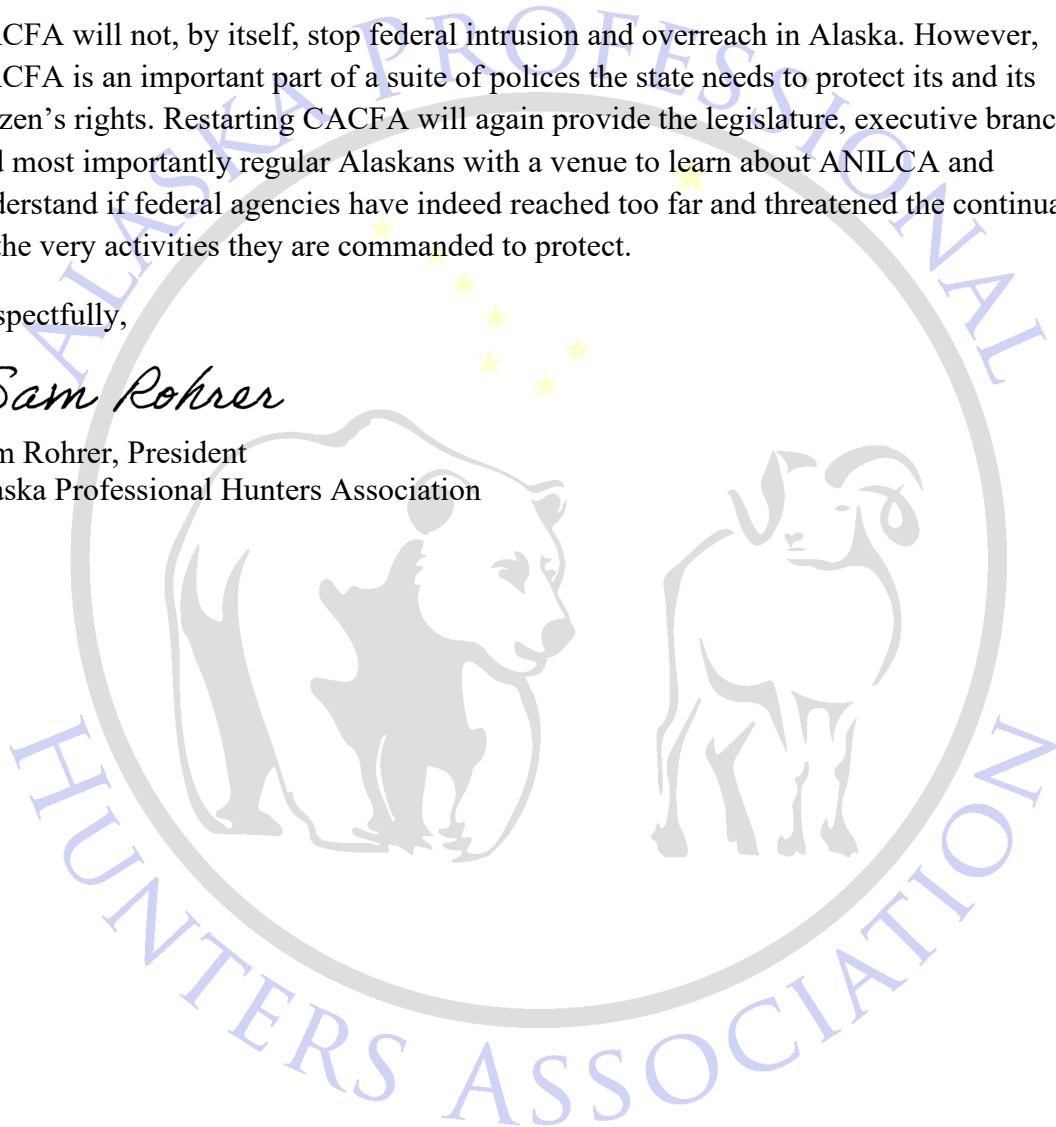
Alaskan activities. Sadly, over time we have experience more than a few instances where federal land managers have ignored or been ignorant of the statutory protections enshrined in ANILCA.

CACFA will not, by itself, stop federal intrusion and overreach in Alaska. However, CACFA is an important part of a suite of policies the state needs to protect its and its citizen's rights. Restarting CACFA will again provide the legislature, executive branch and most importantly regular Alaskans with a venue to learn about ANILCA and understand if federal agencies have indeed reached too far and threatened the continuance of the very activities they are commanded to protect.

Respectfully,

*Sam Rohrer*

Sam Rohrer, President  
Alaska Professional Hunters Association



*Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.*