

## Abby St.Clair

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**From:** itrap2@gci.net  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** Sen. James Kaufman; Rep. George Rauscher  
**Subject:** CACFA Support Letter

I serve as president of the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). We strongly support SB 34/HB 83.

"An Act reestablishing the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska; and providing for an effective date."

ATA represents trappers across of Alaska and because Alaska is 60% federal land our members are significantly impacted by federal land managers decisions. Most of our members who trap on federal lands use lands that are subject to the Alaska National Interest Land Claims Act (ANILCA). Trapping in both federal and state law is considered a customary and traditional activity and enjoys what should be clear and unambiguous statutory and regulatory protections. Unfortunately, situations arise fairly regularly where federal managers make decisions that are not informed by ANILCA and result in a trappers losing access that was promised to continue in ANILCA. For the "little guy" these situations are emotionally distressing and very impactful to a persons way of life.

Since the Citizen Advisory Commission's on Federal Management Areas (CACFA) was allowed to sunset the "little guy" has lost a venue to seek knowledge and learn about his rights. Beyond education, CACFA historically has helped regular Alaskan write letters and engage with the federal managers to resolve disputes. CACFA, from our perspective, is an invaluable venue and resource for the little guy who cannot afford a lawyer and who is likely not an ANILCA expert to keep their promised rights in tact. Beyond CACFA's value as a citizen interface with the federal agencies CACFA also has a value to state departments because they will monitor the federal register and often times pick up on developing issues before the issues make to the Attorney General's office. This front line monitoring is invaluable because it allows for opportunities to work out problems with federal agencies before litigation is being considered as a next step. In short, CACFA has the potential to save the state money by helping resolve problems before they become intractable.

Please accept this letter of support from ATA to reauthorize and fund CACFA again. This is a critical institution to protect Alaskan's rights where the federal managers always seem to be prepared to consider actions that erode rights or break promises made in ANILCA.