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Representative Tom McKay, Representative George Rauscher
Chair/Vice Chair, Senate Resources Committee
33rd Alaska State Legislature

Re: Support for House Bill 83 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMM ON FEDERAL AREAS

March 1, 2023

Dear Representatives McKay, Rauscher, and members of the House Resources Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter supports House Bill 83 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMM ON FEDERAL AREAS.

Founded in 1971, Safari Club International is the country's leading hunter rights advocate and additionally promotes worldwide wildlife conservation. SCI's approximately 50,000 members and 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter (SCI-AK) is a 501c4 conservation non-profit Corporation established in Alaska in 1977. We currently have approximately 600 members. Our mission statement is "First for Hunters - First for Wildlife."

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) was created after the 1980 passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The commission was formed as a unique advisory agency within both the legislature and the executive branch to communicate views of citizens regarding implementation of ANILCA's complex rules and regulations. CACFA gave a voice to Alaskans until 1999 — when state funding was eliminated. The commission was re-established in 2007 but sunsetted again in 2016, despite a favorable review by the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee.

CACFA helps individual Alaskans navigate the federal red tape by appealing arbitrary decisions about commercial service permits and trapping cabins, and bringing federal managers into a public setting during hearings to address actions that affect social and economic activities occurring on and adjacent to federal land. CACFA helps distill long and complex documents that would intimidate the average Alaskan. CACFA had both the expertise and resources to evaluate and comment on the management decisions in these complex documents.

Alaska is facing unprecedented pressure from the federal government to control access and resources on lands that Congress intended to be used by the state's residents. Continuing federal nexus concerns, previously addressed by CACFA, are the many land use plans for various Alaskan parks, preserves and refuges. These documents have far reaching impacts on all Alaskans in the form of proposed restrictions on travel (boat, ATV, snowmobile use, etc.), hunting, fishing, and general access and use of the land and water.

We thank Representative Rauscher for introducing HB 83 and offer our full support for this valuable piece of legislation.

Best regards:

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

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