



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

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January 29, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman  
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 9  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman:

During the hearing on SB 182 Extend Big Game Commercial Services Board in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee on January 22, 2024, we agreed to follow-up with some information we did not have on hand at the time. Questions from the committee member and our follow-up response is below.

**Senator Gray-Jackson asked what caused the Big Game Commercial Services Board to have a deficit in the past.**

The short answer to the cause of the deficit is that the program fees were not adequate to cover program expenditures. (Expenditures can be quite variable depending on investigation activity.) The Division increased fees for the program four times between FY10 and FY17. Initially in FY10 the unit Exam fee was increased from \$50 to \$200. By FY14 the program deficit increased to \$839,480 at which time the division drastically increased all license fees for the program. When it was determined in FY16 that the program continued to need additional revenue, fees were again increased across the program. In FY17 the Annual Hunt/Transporter fee was increased from \$50 to \$300. After six years at the FY17 fee levels, the program had a sufficient surplus to reduce that fee to zero. Total expenditures have been steady with the program cost generally being a little over \$500,000 each year dating all the way back to FY09. As noted during the hearing, in light of the program's current surplus recently one fee was eliminated and another reduced. A fee analysis will be conducted after a year at the current fee level to determine if additional adjustments are necessary.

Please let us know if the committee would like any additional information regarding this question or further follow-up on matters related to professional licensing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvan Robb".

Sylvan Robb  
Director

cc: Lizzie Kubitz, Legislative Liaison, DCCED  
Laura Stidolph, Director, Governor's Legislative Office