



SCI Alaska Chapter
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January 29, 2024

Alaska Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: SCI-AK Support for Senate Bill 182 EXTEND BIG GAME COMM SERVICES BOARD

Honorable members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

The Safari Club International Alaska Chapter supports Senate Bill 182 EXTEND BIG GAME COMM SERVICES BOARD.

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 over 1,200 members. Our mission statement is "First for Hunters - First for Wildlife."

The Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) plays an important role in managing the activities of commercial game hunters in the interest of the State's wildlife resource—a resource that SCI AK seeks to protect for the benefit of all users as well as future generations. SB 182 extends statutory authorization for the existing board to June 30, 2032. Adoption of the bill will continue existing activities by the board and administration by the division. Failure to adopt the bill will result in a one-year wind down of the board in FY25, and the division assuming licensing responsibility in FY26.

If this legislation is not passed and the board sunsets, the department would continue to require access to expertise in the profession. Replacing the expertise currently provided by volunteer board members with professional service contracts may increase the annual costs of this program, resulting in increased license fees. No professional licensing board has sunset in recent years, and we note the positive outcome of the recent BGCSB audit as evidence that the board is properly serving its function. SCI AK kindly requests that your committee pass this key piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Sturgeon

SCI Alaska Chapter President

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Safari Club International Alaska Chapter
First for Hunters - First for Wildlife