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January 16, 1988

Dear Mr. Cotten,

I am writing you concerning House Bill 337. Most of the bill I have no objection to, however I'm extremely upset by Sec. 9. What this says, in a nutshell, is that a nonresident must have a guide to hunt most big game other than a caribou.

This definitely would be of benefit to guides, to many more people, however, I feel it would be both unfair and wrong. Presently, a guide is required by nonresidents to hunt grizzly/brown bears and Dall sheep, unless they are accompanied by resident relatives. Not unreasonable considering the potential danger of big bears or hunting sheep in the glaciers.

The safety factor is not a reasonable excuse for requiring a guide for the rest of these animals. If it were, residents should need guides too. The reasoning of course is money, and the only real benefactors, the guides. As it stands now, guides get a great share of nonresident hunters anyway, regardless of species. What they're shooting for is a monopoly.

People being hurt by this new law, other than the nonresidents themselves, are air taxi operators, innkeepers, nearly anyone else involved in the tourist trade, and the state itself. More restrictions mean a lot less visitors, and the hunters spend a lot of money in the state; including \$260 to over \$1000 in license fees. And hundreds if not thousands of residents are going to be very upset if their nonresident dad or brother won't ever be able to hunt with them again. I respect the guides and their profession, but please don't vote them a monopoly at everyone else's expense!! I think it would be wrong and politically unwise. The guides may have a loud voice, but they're not the majority.

Sincerely,
Bruce L. Nelson

Bruce L. Nelson
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