

Chairman Spraker and Alaska Board of Game Members,

Thank you for your service and for letting me speak today.

I'm Wayne Kubat. I've lived in Alaska permanently since 1976. I earned my Assistant guide license in 1981, my registered license in 1986, and started my own guide business in 1987. I became a Master Guide in 2004. I conduct about 10 guided hunts per year on average. I served 9 years on the Mat-Su AC, and 4 as the chairman (1998-2007). I have been a professional member of Alaska Professional Hunter's Association since 1986 and am the current Vice President. I'm speaking for myself today.

I started my guide business prior to the 1988 Osweichek decision, which ended the former state guide area program. Every year since then, I've seen contempt towards guides and non-resident hunters grow. With the formation of a new resident hunting organization in 2016, I've seen this contempt explode. On their website, they state that over 200 new guides were licensed since 2015, but fail to mention, that as of May, 2018, there are 236 fewer registered and assistant guides than there were in April of 2015. 159 of those were assistants and 77 were registered guides. That is about a 20% decrease in 3 years!

With all of the misinformation and propaganda that is out on the street today, it's not hard to understand why many Alaskan hunters might believe that the "powerful and even evil guide lobby" has this board, and the legislature, in their pocket - and that guides are overwhelming Alaska's landscape and ravaging our wildlife resources. Anymore, it seems like "guides" and "non-resident hunters" have become constant subjects of scorn and ridicule, even though, when it comes to helping pay for Alaska's wildlife management, they are the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Following are some facts that I feel are credible and well documented:

- 1 Of the roughly 300 guides that contract hunts in Alaska each year, about 90% are Alaska Residents.
- 2 There was a total of 3088 guided non-resident hunters in 2015, which figures out to be only about 3% of the approximate 109,000 licenses sold, but that 3% accounted for 52.5 million new dollars - and 87.2 million in total economic activity with multiplier effects - to the state of Alaska. *News flash* - Alaska is not awash with so much cash, that we should be discouraging and crippling a historic and important industry that brings in a significant amount of new money - much of it to rural Alaska - for the small foot print that they leave.
- 3 Non-resident hunters purchased about 13% of the total # of licenses sold in 2015 (14,210), but provided about 72% of Alaska's wildlife funding, and that was before the recent license and tag fee increases. This is a very good deal for Alaska's wildlife and residents. *Thousands and thousands, and thousands of Alaskans can more easily afford to hunt, than may otherwise be able to, if it were not for the major funding provided by a minor percentage of NR hunters.*
- 4 Here's a shocker - Many Alaska residents were once non-residents themselves - and some of them not very long ago. Most Non-residents - just like many Alaskans, are citizens of the United States and many of them want a "reasonable opportunity", to hunt in states

other than their own. Many are veterans who served their country with honor. Some are wounded warriors who sacrificed much for this country. Many of them have resident friends or family that wish to share an Alaskan hunting experience with them in the future.

- 5 Only about 22% of the total non-resident effort each year is guided. The rest come to Alaska with resident friends or family, air taxis, or transporters, yet guides seem to get most of the blame for all of the problems, with very little if any, mention of air taxis and transporters. It is not a stretch to conclude that Alaska residents bring more non-resident hunters to Alaska than do guides, and that severely restricting non-resident access will negatively impact far more residents, than it will guides.

Proposal #56 Opposed. I'm pretty sure the board has voted this down several times already, and I'm not aware of any changes or new information that would dictate otherwise.

#99 I oppose. Every NR hunter that you replace with a resident, will cost the state in excess of \$4000.00 in wildlife management, and in many cases without substantially increasing a resident's chances at drawing. The rural community of Kodiak will be the big loser.

# 101 – 103 Oppose. The current system seems to be working well overall.

Thank you!