

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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October 29, 2007

Cliff Judkins, Chair
Board of Game
P.O. Box 874124
Wasilla, AK 99687

Paul E. Johnson, Chair
Big Game Commercial Services Board
Gull Cove Lodge
P.O. Box 22
Elfin Cove, AK 99825

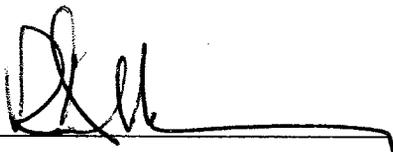
Dear Mr. Judkins and Mr. Johnson:

At the request of the Board of Game and Big Game Commercial Services Board, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Department of Natural Resources have been examining issues relating to adoption of a competitive leasing program for guide use areas in Alaska. This request arises from the Boards' assessments that the current state system, which does not limit the number of guides who may operate in any given area, is detrimental to conservation goals and causes user conflicts.

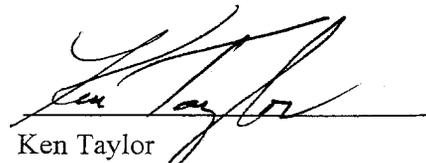
The Departments have been examining various options regarding such a program. However, before moving forward we request that the Board of Game and the Big Game Commercial Services Board develop specific problem statements and associated findings that will guide program development. This is a necessary first step in creating this program and in assuring that it will have the best chance of prevailing against likely legal challenges. We envision that the Board of Game's findings would primarily, although hopefully not exclusively, address the issue of conservation while the Big Game Commercial Services Board would focus more on the area of its expertise, the issue of user conflicts. Both findings need to specifically address the rationale as to why the Boards deem it necessary to limit guided, and largely non-resident, hunting.

The Departments stand ready to assist both Boards in both the development of these findings and with any potential future program developments.

Sincerely,



Richard LeFebvre
Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources



Ken Taylor
Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game