



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2543
Toll free fax: 907.465.2974

January 31, 2019

Representative Gary Knopp
Senate Capitol Room 424
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Suggested Revision to House Bill 19

Representative Knopp,

The Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board (Board) would like to offer a change to House Bill 19, "*An Act exempting certain water taxi operators from regulation as transportation services by the Big Game Commercial Services Board*". We discussed this proposed Bill during our meeting last week, and while we support exempting some water-taxis from being regulated as transporters under our regulations, we unanimously concluded that including such a specific exemption in Statute may not be the most efficient method of achieving this legal change.

Our Board regularly hears testimony from hunting guides, transporters, and the public and we recognize that some transportation services, besides air taxis, provide services that were unintentionally included in current statutes and regulations. Some water-taxi operations are the most obvious group, but there are other transport operations that use means such as off-road vehicles, 4-wheelers, pack animals, etc. that may also have legitimate reasons for exemption. We believe the Board process is the most efficient way to gather information, deliberate, propose solutions and regulate these important and sometimes convoluted situations.

We suggest that rather than specifically including water-taxis along with air-taxis in AS 08.54.790 (12), you make the Statute more generic by substituting "*and other transport means*" for "*water taxi*", and add a subparagraph (C) which could read:

(C) by any other transportation means or services that the Big Game Commercial Services Board determines meets the provisions outlined in AS 08.54.790 (12)(B).

The intent of this language would be to give our Board the authority and direction to exempt or regulate these operations in a reasonable and fair manner, and reduce the chance that the legislature would have to revisit each and every special transport means in the future. If given this authority and direction, I can assure you that our Board would expedite the issue brought forth by the water taxi operators and develop a proposed regulation swiftly.

On behalf of our Board, we thank you for your continued interest in Alaska's natural resources and the people who use them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke that ends in a small flourish.

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Chairman, Big Game Commercial Services Board