



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

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April 4th, 2019

Senator Mike Shower
Senate Capitol Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 18

Senator Shower,

The Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board is opposed to Senate Bill 18, "An Act relating to the use of unmanned aircraft systems while hunting". We discussed this proposed Bill during our meeting last week, and while we strongly support the concept of limiting the use of unmanned aircraft (drones) for hunting, we unanimously concluded that the intent of this proposed Bill has already been addressed by the Board of Game in regulation 5 AAC 92.080, which states "...*The following methods of taking game are prohibited.....(7) with the aid of...(G) any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and is used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device*".

The Board of Game took considerable testimony from the public, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Law prior to developing that regulation, and they continue to monitor the use of drones and other technological advances that may impact the taking of game in our state. We believe the Board of Game process is the most efficient way to regulate these issues, and that Senate Bill 18 is duplicative of their efforts and, because Statutes are much more difficult to change than Regulations, it could make it more difficult to implement timely changes that may be needed in the future.

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 cursive script that reads "Henry D. Tiffany IV".

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Chairman
Big Game Commercial Services Board