

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel
Senate District N

April 27, 2015

To: Representative Mike Hawker
Chair, Legislative Budget and Audit Committee

From: Senator Cathy Giessel

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Giessel".

RE: Audit Request – Board of Game, Department of Fish & Game and Local Advisory Committees

The Board of Game (BOG), the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and Local Advisory Committees work together to manage and allocate the State's wildlife resources. The regulatory system was purposely crafted to provide substantial opportunities for interested members of the public to participate in the regulatory process. Board deliberations must consider different stakeholder opinions as well as scientific evidence provided by DFG.

Concerns have been expressed to my office regarding BOG regulatory outcomes and whether the decision process is operating as intended. To help ensure continued confidence in BOG's regulatory regime; I respectfully request an audit of BOG's decision making process over the period 2010 through current time unless otherwise noted. Specific audit objectives should address the following questions:

- Are BOG decisions made in compliance with state law and legislative intent?
- Are Advisory Committees recommendations rooted in DFG's research? This should include whether recommendations concerning intensive management actions are supported by DFG scientific data. If recommendations do not align with DFG scientific data, identify reasons for the misalignment.
- Do BOG, Advisory committees and DFG consistently follow established procedures?
- Do participants in the decision process have a clear and accurate understanding of their respective roles?
- Is the pre-vetting of proposals effective and/or efficient?
- To what degree have BOG decisions been upheld by the courts and has this changed over the past ten years?
- Regarding intensive management, is DFG's data, research and recommendations available to ACs before committees must make recommendations.

Chair Senate Resources Committee | Vice-Chair Health & Social Services | Vice-Chair Labor & Commerce

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