

Alaska Chapter SCI
PO Box 770511
Eagle River, AK 99577



September 19, 2008

Dave Funk
Iowa Chapter
4330 SE 16th St
Runnells, IA 50237

Dear Mr. Funk:

After having lost twice on the same ballot question in previous years, many hunters in Alaska were skeptical that we could reverse our fate on the third go around. In 1996 and again in 2000 Alaskan voters were asked to decide whether predator/prey management by the use of aerial assistance should be allowed in our state. Both times the resounding answer was no. Fortunately the Alaska Legislature remained in friendly hands and we were able to overturn those other citizen initiatives after the mandatory two year waiting period.

We knew going in that we had to win this time or we could face the very real possibility that the Legislature would finally concede that the will of the majority of Alaskans was against we sportsmen and women. That is where you came to the rescue. Although the SCI Family has provided good levels of cooperation on such issues before, I cannot remember such an out-pouring of support such as we received here in Alaska. The number of chapters and individual members who heeded the call for help was overwhelming, not to mention very humbling.

Money is the mother's milk of campaigns. Without it you usually don't have much of a chance of winning. Through the efforts of SCI, Alaskans for Professional Wildlife Management was able to construct a winning campaign. SCI funding allowed us to hire a professional consulting firm and do the requisite polling to establish who our likely allies were among voters and what our message should be. Such a professional effort paid off in spades the night of the election as we waited with baited breath for the results. When the first numbers flashed up on the screen at election central in Anchorage, none of us could believe our eyes. We were not only winning, we were kicking their (anti-hunters) butts.

I cannot find the words to describe our gratitude to the SCI Family for this victory. When the dust settled and the final accounting of our victory was assessed, SCI, its chapters and its members donated over 85% of the funding for this campaign. Over 85 chapters and individuals contributed including several chapters from outside the country. There are many groups out there who deserve our thanks, as well as our support, for they too are in the battle to support hunting, but no other one group can ever contest us for the statement in our logo, "First for Hunters". I am truly proud to be a member of the world's leading hunter-conservationist fraternity.

From the heart of a hunter, I extend my deepest appreciation to all of you for your part in saving professional wildlife management here in Alaska, and especially to our President, Merle Shepard who successfully encouraged this process.

Sincerely,

Eddie Grasser, President
SCI Alaska Chapter