

# letters

## **Skoog queried on attendance**

**Commissioner Ron Skoog  
Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game  
Support Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801**

**Dear Commissioner Skoog:**

This letter is being written at the direction of the Rural CAP Board of Directors, which recently concluded its Annual Meeting in Kodiak.

The Board was quite disturbed that the "new policies" being forged by ADF&G are apparently private business--and that you have no apparent commitment to meet with groups or organizations to gain input or to provide explanations. Although concern for the policy initiatives of ADF&G is pervasive, and applies to almost all of rural Alaska, two specific concerns emerged from our meeting.

1. The apparent failure of ADF&G to participate, in any way, in the AVCP Land-Use Workshops held in early August. According to the representative of AVCP, on the Rural CAP Board, repeated requests for involvement in the workshops were ignored by ADF&G personnel. Insofar as the workshops provided an excellent opportunity for ADF&G interaction with rural citizens, and insofar as the workshops were held coincident to the Seiberling Committee d-2 hearings in Bethel, I should think that ADF&G would have seen a compelling interest in attending.

2. Your failure to respond, in any way, to my letter of early August requesting that you meet with our Board. Although we can understand that you may not have been able to attend the meeting, your unwillingness to communicate with us at all was interpreted as "business-as-usual" within ADF&G: this is unfortunate, especially as your visit to our office was, we thought, an excellent sign that ADF&G was willing to go public with its concerns.

Perhaps this is still the case. If so, I would be happy to serve as a conduit for your explanation to the Rural CAP Board and the AVCP, and to continue an effort to build a constructive dialogue between ADF&G and rural Alaskans. If not, then nothing has changed, and we can assume the continuation of an adversary relationship.

Thank you in advance for opting for the former alternative.

Sincerely,

**Phil Smith  
Executive Director**

cc: Tundra Times