

Resent-From: <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>
From: Stephen Stidham <stid2677@me.com>
Date: February 20, 2014 at 11:16:44 AM AKST
To: "Rep. Tammie Wilson" <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 161

Honorable Representative Wilson,

I write this letter today to ask that you please take some action to protect Alaska's big game animals for our future generations. HB 161 is just the latest attempt to sell our States resources to the highest bidder (I oppose this bill). The Board of Game has not taken any action on proposal after proposal to protect resident hunting opportunity and restrict non-resident hunters. Non-resident hunters take more and more sheep every year and the commercial operations that support them have driven many residents to give up sheep hunting all together. The mountains, once peaceful places of solitude have become overrun with guides, their aircraft and a constant wave of non-resident hunters. This can be seen by looking at the sheep surveys in GMU 13 and 14, where commercial hunting has devastated sheep populations and now the hunting pressure is being focused on the Brooks range and it too will soon become devoid of legal rams as well. Please, please, please do not sit by and allow the same fate that has fallen on the once mighty Kenai King to also happen to Alaska's magnificent Dall Sheep. I ask that non-resident tags for Dall-Sheep to be on a draw basis and that tag fees for residents to be increased from FREE, to an amount that will support fish and game and the research needed to maintain our Alaskan game animals.

Stephen Stidham
900 Lakloey Drive
North Pole, AK 99705