

From: Brian Lynch

Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 10:37 AM

To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French

Cc: Reid Harris; bill@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com; eddie@aksafariclub.org

Subject: CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 161(RES)--Proposed Amendment to Sect. 1(a)

Dear Senator Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee,

As a founding member and trustee of the Devils Thumb Archers archery club in Petersburg, I am concerned about an amendment to section 1(a) CS for House Bill 161 that would reduce the revenue going to a qualified organization from the auction/raffle of a Dall Sheep and Etolin Island Elk harvest permit from the current 100% to 30%. We understand that the concern expressed by the Alaska Outdoor Council and the reason for this amendment pertains to the Dall Sheep permit and not the Etolin Is. elk permit. The Dall Sheep permit has been the subject of a number of posts on outdoor and hunting chat rooms but the Etolin Is. elk permit has not been mentioned in any posts that we know of. We do understand the concerns raised about the Dall Sheep permit and we have no interest in disputing those concerns. However, Devils Thumb Archers has been raffling off an Etolin Is. elk permit for nearly 15 years and for the past several years, we have been the only organization to apply for those permits. While we don't know the history of why the organizational revenue was initially set at 100%, we believe it had to do with elk being transplanted to Etolin Is. and are not indigenous to that area.

Devils Thumb Archers is a small local non-profit organization with fewer than 100 members, most of which are family members with kids making up nearly 1/2 of the total membership. Generally the revenue we receive from the elk raffle is \$500 to \$1,000 and has ranged from less than \$300 to nearly \$2,000 early in the program. While the total dollars is not a large amount, the impact to our small organization is substantial. We use this money to maintain our archery range, purchase 3-D archery targets (which are very expensive) and put on tournaments, open houses, provide archery instruction and free use of equipment by our members with the emphasis on encouraging participation by kids. The local schools have also occasionally used the archery range for physical education classes. Without the opportunity to utilize 100% of the proceeds of the Etolin Is. elk permit raffle, we will be very hard pressed to be able to increase our revenue from other sources, such as membership dues. We are hesitant to increase our dues structure because we want to encourage people of all economic incomes to be able to utilize our facilities. Also, all of our range maintenance is done by volunteers often utilizing their own equipment. **Therefore, we respectfully request that the organizational revenue for the auction/raffle of the Etolin Is. elk permit remain at 100% in Sect. 1(a) in CS For House Bill No. 161(RES).**

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Brian Lynch

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