

From: Dave Lyon

Date: April 1, 2014 at 7:39:32 PM AKDT

To: "senator.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov" <senator.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB161

Dear Senator,

As the Chair of the Homer fish and game advisory committee, and a twenty year hunter of big game in Alaska, I must write you in objection to the passage of HB161, the governors tag bill. This legislation is unneeded, addresses a nonexistent "problem", and in no way benefits Alaskan hunters as a group, or the state as an entity.

This legislation proposes to reduce available big game tags to all hunters for the benefit of a very few organizations. The argument that more tags will somehow increase the value of tags at auction, and thus result in more monies generated to our department of fish and game not only flies in the face of supply and demand, but with the addition of a "special" governor's tag the proceeds of which go 100% to the auctioning organization becomes a farcical statement.

This entire legislation not only reeks of the privatization of our public wildlife resources, but also of the attitude of "the King's deer", a concept we left behind with the foundation of this nation. Alaska is, as we so often mention an "owner state", with the wealth of our resources being held for the public in the public trust. It is NOT a state where the ownership of the public trust has been transferred to our elected officials, no matter what they may think.

Should more monies to fish and game management be the true goal of this legislation, which seems dubious, real consideration should be given to an increase in license and tag fees. This solution is far more palatable to the public than the pimping of coveted big game tags to the rich. On behalf of the Homer AC and all Alaskans I urge you to reject this bill in its entirety.

Dave Lyon

Chair, Homer F&G advisory committee

Please see that this testimony is added to the record

Sent from the home office.