

Senate Finance Testimony, AWCA, April 12, 2016

My name is Mike Tinker and I am testifying on behalf of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association. The AWCA is a Fairbanks based Organization that has worked on resource issues and legislation for 40 years. Our efforts gave birth to the intensive management statute, got Alaskans out of allocating fish and wildlife resources by referendum and led the early efforts to refute federal overreach.

HB 137 by Representative Talerico began life with noble intent. In it's Present form, it's objectives are not clearly seen and it is difficult to Understand the relationship between the new revenue and the original objectives. The 215,000 plus Alaskans from age 16 to 60 who buy these licenses haven't a clue what this legislation does to them or fort them. The objectives have not been discussed except for a couple of special Issues.

We support:

- User fees replacing "most" of the general funds in WC & SF.
- Changing language on low income licenses
- Enhanced license requirements to provide use and harvest data for management

- Establishing separate accounts within the Fish and Game fund for Intensive Management and special uses, for example, the maintenance request by the Chitina Dipnetters.
- Revenue to maximize the potential for qualifying for federal funds
- Language to constrain the Department of Fish and Game from using separate account funds for anything but their intended purpose.

To accomplish our objectives, HB 137 needs to raise revenue by an estimated \$11.6 million, that breaks down to:

- \$7.5 million to reduce GF is WC and SF
- \$3 million to maximize federal match
- \$1.5 million for an IM account

Then the legislature needs to add \$2 million annually in GF for those non-federal matching programs and projects and to provide funds that “do not directly benefit license purchasers”, as required by statute. An example would be funding for fighting the federal overreach in fish and wildlife managements.

HB 137, as is, raises considerably more than \$11.6 million.

The increases, focusing here on resident fees, need to be reduced to the \$11.6 million range. This is a poor time to ask resident hunters and fishers for “extra” revenue for undefined purposes.

As busy as you are, if there is not time and energy to make these changes, please put HB 137 off.

Of the 215,000 resident hunters and fishers, nearly all are voting age. This legislation has to make good cost-benefit sense to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Doniece Gott

From: Sen. Anna MacKinnon
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 5:58 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: FW: HB 137

HB 137

Kristen Pratt
Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Anna MacKinnon
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol | Room 516
(907) 694-8944

-----Original Message-----

From: Francis Mauer [mailto:fmauer@mosquiconet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 4:38 PM
To: Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 137

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

I am opposed to any additional tax on my hunting license which the so-called "Sustainable Wildlife Account" is. And I urge you to remove it from HB137 or do not pass HB 137 if it has the Sustainable Wildlife Account language in it.

Thank you,

Francis Mauer
791 Redpoll Ln
Fairbanks, AK 99712