

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** Robert Stone <Rob@stonelawalaska.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2019 4:38 PM  
**To:** Trever M. Fulton; Sen. Chris Birch  
**Cc:** Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Matthew Stone (akmattstone@gmail.com); Sen. Chris Birch  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 87

Senators Birch, Coghill, Giessel, Reinbold, Bishop, Kawasaki, and Kiehl:

We (Rob Stone and Matthew Stone) write to encourage you to support SB 87.

We are lifelong Alaskans. Rob has lived in Alaska for nearly 50 years. Matthew was born here 22 years ago. We both love to spend time in the outdoors hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing with our family.

Rob is one of the three Incorporators of Resident Hunters of Alaska (“RHAK”), a group formed to provide a voice for resident hunters of Alaska. Together we joined another 98 Alaskans, each donating \$1,000, to form RHAK. In a short amount of time, RHAK has grown to over 2,000 members, representing well over 100,000 Alaskans that enjoy the wilderness with their friends and families. Just short of 500 people joined us at our annual banquet a few weeks ago. Our objective is simple: when the wildlife resources are scarce enough to require a limitation on the harvest, the non-resident opportunity must be limited first, before the resident opportunity is limited.

This is a rational and reasonable request. Every state in the country has such a limitation. Alaska, arguably, has this limitation. But our Board of Game refuses to implement such limitation. Hence the reason for SB 87.

AS 16.05.256 currently provides:

Whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of big game so that the opportunity for state residents to take big game can be reasonably satisfied in accordance with sustained yield principles, the Board of Game **may**, through a permit system, limit the taking of big game by nonresidents and nonresident aliens to accomplish that purpose. **(emphasis added).**

The Department of Fish and Game Regulation Booklet (at page 7) provides as follows:

*Nonresidents are allowed to hunt when there is enough game to allow everyone to participate. When there isn't enough game, nonresident hunters **are** restricted or eliminated first. If more restrictions are necessary, seasons and bag limits may be reduced or eliminated for some residents. **(emphasis added).***

The Board of Game has disregarded the ADF&G regulation booklet and relies upon the word “may” in the statute to disregard a resident preference. Senate Bill 87 requires the Board of Game to set its policies in accordance with a resident preference by changing the word “may” to “shall.”

We support SB 87.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our input.

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