

My name is Bob Cassell. Thank you for your time on this board and for consideration of my proposal.

I am testifying for myself, but also I am a board member of Resident Hunters of Alaska (which now represents 2,000 members). I am one of more than 100,000 residents in Alaska who have a resident hunting license.

Last year I received my permanent hunting license. I have been applying for brown bear permits for most of my adult life and was informed by Fish & Game last month that I didn't draw a brown bear permit again. I have never had the opportunity to hunt for a Kodiak brown bear. My proposed allocation change would effectively double my chances of drawing a brown bear permit on Kodiak Island.

Residents & Non-Residents Agree

During the development of this proposal I asked other Alaskans their opinions and about their experiences with applying for Kodiak brown bear permits. A friend related to me a conversation he had with 2 non-resident hunters who had hunted Kodiak Island for brown bear. One of the non-residents killed a bear with his bow on his second hunt. The other non-resident went 3 times and killed 3 brown

bears. Both non-residents felt they were lucky to get permits every time they applied. When my friend explained how the system allocates permits, the non-residents thought it was unfair to Alaska residents. Alaskans have told me that they have given up even trying to get this permit. This conflicts with ADF&G's goal to recruit and retain hunters. I read the public comments submitted for Proposal 99 and noted 23 in favor.

Biologic Concerns

The negative comments I read implied biologic concerns expected with having a greater resident harvest. Fortunately, Dr. Van Dale wrote his PhD thesis on Kodiak brown bears. His study measures the harvest of female brown bears as statistically equal between residents and guided non-residents. However, a similar population of brown bears (not on Kodiak) actually suffered biologic damage because of the self-proclaimed experts (the commercial hunting guides). You may remember ADF&G recommending and the Board of Game approving a 1-week shorter brown bear hunting season in Unit 9 for both resident and non-resident hunters. But if you look at the recent Unit 9 harvest numbers for female brown bears, it is a substantially greater percentage taken by guided non-residents.

Finances / Losses

Another issue commercial hunters have with Proposal 99 is concern that it would devastate them financially. While I doubt that to be an expected outcome, I also want to observe that resident hunters have had around 40 years of opportunity loss with this current allocation.

Fairness Applied by Other State

This is an issue of un-fairness with over 50% of the brown bear harvest going to non-residents. Most other states allocate 90% to their residents for limited draw hunts such as this. North Dakota allocates only 1% of their trophy deer to non-residents. California allocates only 1 draw permit to a non-resident for ALL of their limited draw hunts. Once one non-resident is drawn, no more non-residents receive a permit that year.