



RESIDENT HUNTERS OF ALASKA

unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

Working hard to ensure our wildlife is managed sustainably with an emphasis on protecting and enhancing resident hunting opportunities!

www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

February 12, 2026

To: Senate Resources Committee

Re: SB 216 Big Game Hunting Permits

OPPOSE

Dear Chair Giessel, Vice-chair Wielechowski, and members of the Resources Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) is extremely disappointed that this bill was introduced. To suggest that coveted hunting draw permits should be able to be transferred to another hunter for monetary gain is completely contrary to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and highly unethical.

When the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (Department) allocates draw permits for a particular hunt, they do so knowing that not everyone who is lucky enough to win a permit will go on that hunt. Hence, more permits are offered than the number of animals that can be sustainably harvested. If we allowed hunters to transfer their draw tag to someone else, the total number of draw tags available would have to be decreased, which would mean less odds of winning a permit.

If we allowed hunters who won a draw permit to sell that permit to another person in that same class, we would end up with hunters and non-hunters alike putting in for draw permits simply so they could sell them to the highest bidder.

We strongly **oppose** this bill as written.

If the legislature were to consider allowing the transfer of a draw permit from one person to another, the only way that should happen is if the Department randomly selects another winner from that permit's drawing pool. The hunter should not be able to choose who gets the transferred permit.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)