



4 Tribes Collaboration for the Protection of Traditional Lands, Water, Air, Minerals and Subsurface

JOINT LETTER OF THE FOUR TRIBES OF PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for House Bill 93 – Subsistence Residency Requirements

Dear Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

On behalf of the Craig Tribal Association, Klawock Cooperative Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, and the Organized Village of Kasaan (collectively, the “Four Tribes”), we write in strong support of House Bill 93 and any corresponding Senate legislation addressing subsistence residency requirements.

The Four Tribes represent the Indigenous peoples of Prince of Wales Island and surrounding areas in Southeast Alaska. Since time immemorial, our people have depended upon the lands, waters, and resources of this region for our physical sustenance, cultural identity, and spiritual well-being. Subsistence is not merely a use of resources—it is a foundational component of our governance, our laws, and our way of life.

House Bill 93 is a necessary and appropriate step toward protecting subsistence as it was intended: a priority for those who live on and depend upon the land. Strengthening residency requirements helps ensure that subsistence uses are preserved for rural communities and Indigenous peoples whose survival, food security, and cultural continuity depend on these resources.

Across Southeast Alaska, we are experiencing increasing pressure on subsistence resources. Expanding participation by non-local users, combined with inconsistent regulatory frameworks, has resulted in reduced access for those who rely on these resources the most. For our communities, this is not theoretical—it directly impacts our ability to feed our families, teach our children, and uphold our responsibilities as stewards of these lands and waters.

We emphasize that subsistence priority is not simply a matter of state policy. It is grounded in federal law, including the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and reflects the federal government’s trust responsibility to Alaska Native peoples. Policies that fail to protect rural subsistence users risk continued legal conflict and further inequities in resource allocation.

House Bill 93 moves Alaska toward a more equitable and sustainable framework by reinforcing the principle that those with the closest connection to the land—and the greatest dependence upon it—should retain priority access. This approach is consistent with both traditional stewardship practices and the long-term conservation of fish and wildlife resources.

4-Tribes Meeting March 20th 2026



4 Tribes Collaboration for the Protection of Traditional Lands, Water, Air, Minerals and Subsurface

The Four Tribes strongly support the passage of House Bill 93 and urge the Alaska State Legislature to work in meaningful partnership with tribal governments to ensure that subsistence management reflects both legal obligations and the lived realities of our communities.

We stand ready to engage in government-to-government consultation and collaborative management efforts that honor tribal sovereignty, protect subsistence ways of life, and ensure the sustainability of these resources for future generations.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

Clinton E. Cook Sr.

Clinton E. Cook Sr., Tribal President
Craig Tribal Association

March 27, 2026

Date

Dennis Nickerson

Dennis Nickerson, Tribal President
Klawock Cooperative Association

27-Mar-2026

Date

Patty Natkong

Patty Natkong, Tribal President
Hydaburg Cooperative Association

March 30, 2026

Date

Mike Jones

Mike Jones, Tribal President
Organized Village of Kasaan

3-24-26

Date

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: FW: HB 93 - Senate Resources Hearing Next Week - Emails in Support
Date: Friday, May 1, 2026 11:33:06 AM

From: Jake Combs <jake@40-mileair.com>
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 10:09 AM
To: Thatcher Brouwer <Thatcher.Brouwer@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. George Rauscher <Sen.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 93 - Senate Resources Hearing Next Week - Emails in Support

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of HB 93. This is a long overdue issue in Alaska in my opinion. Alaska continues to give away its resources to outside people or sources at an expense to the residents living within Alaska. Fish and Game resources are at low levels state wide on many fronts, everyone has less opportunity but people that dont live in alaska should not have the same opportunities as someone that is here through the good and bad times of year putting their money and resouces back into the economy within Alaska.

I sincerely hope that the Alaska and its Residents that live here will be at the forefront of discussion for HB93.

Jacob Combs
Tok, Alaska
907-727-3993

On Thu, Apr 30, 2026 at 6:08 PM Leif wilson <leifwilson@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Leif wilson <leifwilson@yahoo.com>
Date: April 30, 2026 at 6:05:14 PM AKDT
To: Thatcher Brouwer <Thatcher.Brouwer@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 93 - Senate Resources Hearing Next Week - Emails in

Support

Thatcher,
I will do all that I can to get people to send emails

Leif
Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 30, 2026, at 5:51 PM, Thatcher Brouwer
<Thatcher.Brouwer@akleg.gov> wrote:

Dear Leif,

Thank you for your continued support of Representative Himschoot's bill to update the requirements to get a resident hunting, trapping or sport fishing license over the past few years. House Bill 93 is scheduled for a hearing in Senate Resources Committee next Wednesday, May 6th. This is the final committee of referral and if it passes out of committee it can be scheduled for a Senate Floor Vote before the end of session.

I am writing because we anticipate members of the Senate Resources Committee will receive an influx of emails in opposition to the bill and I am wondering if you would be willing to send a quick email in support of the bill to the Senate Resources Committee members.

I will be reaching out to other supporters, but we do not have as many contacts in the interior, so please feel free to share this request with other supporters of the bill. Below is a list of the Senate Resources Committee members and their email addresses. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Thatcher

**Senate Resources Committee Members and Email
Addresses**

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair, Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov

Senator Bill Wielechowski, Vice-Chair,

Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov

Senator Matt Claman, Senator.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov

Senator Forrest Dunbar, Senator.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Senator Scott Kawasaki, Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov

Senator Robert Myers, Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov

Senator George Rauscher, Senator.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov

Thatcher Brouwer

Office of Representative Rebecca Himschoot

<image003.png>

House District 2

907-465-3732 – Main

907-465-5446 – Direct

--

Jake Combs

40-Mile Air

Po Box 539

Tok, AK 99780

907-883-5191

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Paige Brown](#)
Subject: FW: PUBLIC COMMENT for "HB 93 RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING"
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:50:50 AM
Attachments: [AK Sport Fish and Game Licenses1991_2025.xlsx](#)
[1926-2030-licenses-stamps-tags-issued.pdf](#)
[HB93 Will Not Benefit Alaskans or Alaskan Resources .pdf](#)

From: Elizabeth Figus <ecfigus@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:44 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Robert Myers <Senator.Robert.Myers@akleg.gov>; Sen. George Rauscher <Sen.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT for "HB 93 RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING"

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

I am writing to express concern and disappointment regarding HB 93. HB 93 purports to solve a loophole problem that allows people who mostly live out of state to harvest resources on resident licenses. Unfortunately, the data do not support the bill.

There has been no increase in purchases of resident sport fish or hunting licenses since 1991, while nonresident sport fish license purchases have increased by 293% and nonresident hunt license purchases have increased 171% since 1991.

Nonresident sport fish license purchases increased from 179,143 in 1991 to 523,349 in 2025. Nonresident hunt license purchases increased from 9,865 in 1991 to 16,934 in 2025. This indicates a more nuanced problem than is being put forward in HB93.

HB 93 is unlikely to solve the problem of declining fish and game resources in our State. Please do not pass HB 93 without a complete re-write.

I have attached supporting documentation and a few ideas for functional solutions to this email for your reference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Figus

View Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

cell: (732) 749-0319

From: [Lantz Dahlke](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); mike.cronk@alaska.gov
Subject: HB93
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 8:56:40 AM

Good morning,

I am writing to express my overwhelming support of House Bill 93. The abuse of our hunting and fishing resident requirements by non-resident civilian and military personnel is astonishing!

I've been a resident of Alaska for over 50 years. The residency requirements were strict and concise when I moved here with the army. Everyone was required to meet the one year of residency no matter if they were civilian or military. Since the residency requirements changed for active duty military and their dependents, there has been a significant increase of pressure on our fish and game. Active duty military can now hunt and fish as a resident the day they arrive in Alaska. Often they then change their home of record to Alaska and for years after they have left the state they continue to receive PFDs, hunt and fish as residents. Yet they live in military housing or rent while they are stationed here, never own any property and still reap the benefits of residency. Additionally there are numerous retired state employees and other retiree's that are gone for extended periods of time from the state and own property in other states. Yet they continue to collect resident benefits of 10%, PFDs, hunt and fish. Did you know that a non-resident soldier that is assigned to Ft. Greely, the day he/she arrives, qualifies to federally subsistence hunt. However, the very same hunts are closed to me as a resident because I do not live in a rural community area!

I spent the majority of the last 40 years as an Alaska State Trooper, seven of those years as a Wildlife Trooper Commander. During that time my detachment investigated numerous residency hunting and fishing violations and PFD fraud cases. Due to current statutes and regulations, our prosecution often declined or failed to charge the offenders. The majority of the time, military wildlife violators were given "the benefit of the doubt", and their cases were dismissed. Alaska needs to change their residency requirements and HB 93 is a start in the right direction. If anyone would like to discuss this further, I can be reached by this email or my cell, 907-460-2481.

Thank you,

Lantz Dahlke
453 N Evolyn Dr
North Pole, Alaska 99705

From: [Tom Lovas](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Senate CS for HB93
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 12:10:29 PM

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

HB93 should not be supported in the Senate. I'm extremely disappointed that the House passed such a bill. There should be no relationship between PFD eligibility and resident hunting and fishing licenses. As long as a resident of Alaska maintains Alaska residency (domicile, property taxes, vehicle registrations, voting rights, etc.) and that resident does not take residency in any form elsewhere, that resident should continue to maintain resident hunting and fishing rights.

The PFD is a unique feature of this state that has been established under Alaska's fiscal circumstances and is justifiably restricted to minimize abuse by those that may have no other interest in Alaska. Those restrictions should in no way apply to those of us that maintain permanent residency in Alaska. The legislation effectively requires a resident to annually apply for a PFD to acquire or maintain a resident hunting and fishing license, which is clearly wrong. Some of us may travel and spend more than 6 months out of state for any number of reasons and willingly withdraw from PFD eligibility. Withdrawal from the PFD program is no reason to be denied the right to otherwise participate in the beneficial access to fish and game. I would surmise that many residents that do travel and spend time out of state become ineligible for the PFD knowingly and voluntarily.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Tom Lovas

5840 Azalea Drive

Anchorage, AK 99516

907-351-7846 (cell)

tlovas@acsalaska.net

From: [John Dittrich](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#)
Subject: Fwd: HB93 - stop the assault on our seniors!
Date: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:48:01 PM

Senate Resources Committee Members,

I implore you to make changes to this bill as I've proposed below. The bill as written punishes our seniors and retirees who have continued to maintain a residence in our state for decades that now "snow bird" outside part of the year. We must recognize those seniors by shortening their annual in state requirements as I've suggested below.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL AS WRITTEN!

Thank you,

John Dittrich
Lifelong Alaskan Resident
District 12

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rep. Calvin Schrage** <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>
Date: Fri, Apr 17, 2026 at 8:27 PM
Subject: Re: HB93
To: John Dittrich <jpd99663@gmail.com>

Hi John,

Thank you for your follow-up.

I want to clarify that because HB 93 has already passed the House and is now formally under consideration in the Senate, I will not have any further opportunity to amend the bill from the House side. I recommend continuing to share your specific amendment ideas with the Senate Resources Committee as they review the current language.

Best regards,

Calvin

Representative Calvin Schrage

House District 12 – Abbott Loop / Lower Hillside

(907) 465-4931 • www.akleg.gov

www.facebook.com/rep.calvin.schrage

From: John Dittrich <jpd99663@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:08 PM
To: Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB93

Thank you for responding. However please have the courage to insert a clause that those over 60, that otherwise qualify for the senior permanent license, are held to a lower residency standard. There's already a law on the books allowing 60+ to be able to obtain a permanent fishing license so it should be super easy to make this tweak to only a 120 day requirement while holding those only qualifying for an annual license to have the minimum 180 day residency.

Thank you

On Fri, Apr 17, 2026 at 7:27 PM Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

Thank you for reaching out and sharing your thoughts on HB 93. As a lifelong Alaskan, I very much appreciate your perspective.

I understand your concerns regarding how residency requirements for hunting and fishing privileges might impact seniors who choose to travel during the winter. The primary goal of this legislation is to address enforcement issues by creating a clearer, more defensible definition of "resident," similar to the PFD standard, while still allowing for a number of absences such as time out of state for medical care. Unfortunately, a line has to be drawn somewhere, and currently, the consensus seems to be around the 180-day requirement.

It is important to note that under this bill, individuals who do not meet the 180-day physical presence requirement would still be able to hunt and fish in Alaska; however, they would do so under a non-resident license. I recognize that this change would still preclude long-term residents in your position from participating in subsistence hunting and fishing, which is a significant concern.

As this bill continues to move through the legislative process, I will keep your feedback regarding a tiered residency requirement for seniors in mind. I am not certain where Senator Kaufman stands on this specific issue, but he may be able to play a more direct role in addressing your concerns as the bill is now in the Senate for consideration.

Thank you again for your advocacy and for being part of the process.

Best regards,

Calvin

Representative Calvin Schrage

House District 12 – Abbott Loop / Lower Hillside
(907) 465-4931 • www.akleg.gov
www.facebook.com/rep.calvin.schrage

From: John Dittrich <jpd99663@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 7:23 AM
To: Rep. Calvin Schrage <Rep.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fwd: HB93

Apologies I had your addresses wrong initially. Please see below.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Dittrich <jpd99663@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 13, 2026 at 9:18 AM
Subject: Fwd: HB93
To: <Representative.Calvin.Schrage@akleg.gov>, <sen.james.kaufman@akleg.gov>

Good morning Calvin and James,

I am a 59 1/2 year resident of AK born here in 1966. I am very alarmed at what it appears HB 93 is attempting to do to seniors who still call Alaska home but choose to winter out of state.

I agree with everything that my good friend Steve Bradford has stated below.

While I get there needs to be tighter laws for those scofflaws trying to scam the system, those that have been here for years and qualify for the permanent senior fishing license should be allowed to maintain AK residency for fishing licenses for their lifetime. I cannot guarantee I'll be in AK for over 180 days as I age and retire but I will absolutely still have a residence up here and AK will always be my home, even if I do not qualify for the PFD.

Please stop another assault on our seniors by amending this legislation as I've suggested above - perhaps shortening annual in state for those 60 and above to 90 or at most 120 days annually. 180 days for aging seniors is too much to ask for those that were here working year round as well as paying taxes for decades.

Thank you,

John Dittrich, Jr.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Steve Bradford <sbradford@gci.net>
Date: Fri, Apr 10, 2026 at 12:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: HB93

To: John Dittrich <jpd99663@gmail.com>

As a future retiree, you might be interested in this legislation that is working its way thru the Senate. As a 51 year resident and a snowbird I'm not happy to be treated as a 2nd class citizen. I have been sending emails and if it passes I will be leaving the state sooner rather than later.

Sent from Steve's iPad.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rep. Sara Hannan" <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>
Date: April 6, 2026 at 1:24:21 PM PDT
To: Steve Bradford <sbradford@gci.net>
Subject: RE: HB93

Steve,

HB 93 Residency requirements for hunting, trapping and sport fishing privileges is attempting to resolve problems with abuse of the lax definition for resident in the hunting/fishing licensure. Using the PFD definition of residency is the tightest standard, but one that legally is vetted and defensible. HB 93 does not require you qualify for a PFD, allows for up to 180 days absent from the state in a calendar year (as opposed to the PFD qualifying period) and still allows for additional extenuating absences like medical care and caregiving. As with all political solutions it is not perfect. It passed the House on 1/30/2026 with a vote of 27-12. It has broad support as across the state we see problems with enforcement of Fish and Game licensure.

The bill was heard and moved from the Senate Judiciary committee last week and will next be in the Senate Resources committee. Make sure to share your concerns with them and Sen. Kiehl. Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov. Senate.Resources@akleg.gov. Senate Resources is Chaired by Sen. Cathy Giessel – Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov.

Sincerely,
Sara

Representative Sara Hannan
State House of Representatives
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska
(907) 465-4766

Representing Lemon Creek, Downtown Juneau, Thane, Douglas Island, Airport and the Mendenhall Valley to Stephen Richards Drive

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

From: Steve Bradford <sbradford@gci.net>

Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2026 11:05 AM

To: Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB93

As a long time resident of ALaska and Juneau, I am wondering why you are co-sponsoring HB93?

I am over 80 years old and I have been a continuous resident and property owner in Juneau, Alaska since 1975. I have made my living in Alaska as a civil engineer and a commercial fisherman.

I have been retired now for several years, but continue to own my own sport fishing boat and fish the waters of SE Alaska. I also like to participate in subsistence and personal use fishing, taking just enough of these resources to feed my wife and myself.

Since we have aged, we don't really relish the Alaskan winters anymore. My wife and I have a second home down south, but maintain our Alaska residency because Alaska is our home. I am acquainted with numerous other retirees who enjoy a similar lifestyle. We like to think that we continue to support our local economy by maintaining a residence in Alaska, and we feel that after all of these years we are still entitled to the benefits of our Alaska residency.

We don't generally apply for the PFD, because our absences generally exceed the 180 day criteria and we are ok with that. But what we are not ok with is the loss of our hunting and fishing privileges that we think we earned over our 51 year Alaska residency. That just doesn't seem right now to be considered a non-resident just because we travel, and spend considerable time away from our Alaska home - primarily in the winter.

I ask you, as a long term resident, to consider the ramifications of HB93 to those of us who have been faithful and productive long-term Alaska residents. Is this the way to treat our senior citizens? Once this law is in place, it is going to discourage our retirees from staying in Alaska? If so, that is going to have a detrimental impact on our state's economy and our local economies. How much damage to our resources are these older residents actually causing?

I ask that you withdraw your support for this legislation. I think treating us as second class citizens for hunting/fishing privileges is a mistake, there has to be other remedies to cure the problems that the sponsors of HB93 are trying to solve.

I will be interested to hear your justification for supporting HB93.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Steve Bradford

Juneau, AK

Sent from Steve's iPad.

From: elickirby@gmail.com
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB93
Date: Thursday, April 16, 2026 6:18:55 PM

Hello I was told this email would be the appropriate place to send a comment on HB93 if that is not the case please let know.

I am a Juneau resident, have been full time since 2015 and I believe the bill could work against me. My full time employment is a pilot on CL215T water bombing aircraft for wildfire suppression. We work primarily in the USA but are not fixed based, I work a 14/14 schedule but live full time in Juneau and have my home here and no other residences. My concern as wildfire seasons get longer I could run into the residence requirement for the hunting license and am an avid hunter and fisherman and my pursuit of both feed me and my family throughout the year.

I support tightening the regulations for resident hunting and fishing to protect the resource but would like to bring up that many of the people in Alaska work strange jobs that take us out of the state a lot even though this is our home.

Thank you for your time
Elic Kirby.

From: [NATALIE & STEVE BRADFORD](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB93
Date: Monday, April 13, 2026 6:05:27 AM

Hello,

I'm a 50+ year Alaska resident. I along with many other Alaska retirees maintain homes outside of Alaska, but are domiciled in Alaska and continue to be Alaska residents. Because I am out of state more than 180 days per year, I am not eligible for the PFD and am ok with this. Not receiving the PFD does not make me a non resident of the State of Alaska.

The House has passed HB93. This legislation states that in order for a person to be considered a resident for fishing, hunting, trapping - you must be eligible for the PFD. This legislation not only affects our bag limits, but also our eligibility for subsistence and personal use hunting and fishing. Why would a resident of the State of Alaska no be able to purchase a resident fishing license because they do not qualify for the PFD?

To me, this seems unconscionable. Hunting and fishing rights go along with residency. Either we are residents or we aren't. We vote in Alaska, we own property in Alaska, we are domiciled in Alaska. Given this bill is aimed at retirees, it seems the State of Alaska is using age discrimination as a means to enforce laws that they should be enforcing with their enforcement officers.

I'm asking that this bill die in committee. We certainly don't want to be considered non-residents for any purpose in our home state of Alaska.

Thank you for your assistance,

Natalie Bradford
4401 Riverside Dr Unit B3
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Rod Arno](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [Caleb Martin](#)
Subject: HB93
Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 1:19:16 PM

Chair Cathy Giessel and Senate Resource Committee Members,

The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes changes to the qualifications and exemptions for obtaining a state resident hunting, trapping, or fishing license currently before the Alaska Senate Resources, HB93.

An **adequately** enforced definition of what it takes to qualify as an Alaska resident per current state law, AS 16.05.415(a)-(b) should resolve most user conflicts without infringing on the opportunity for Alaska hunters, trappers, and anglers who claim no other place of residency outside of the State of Alaska

Thank you for your consideration of the Alaska Outdoor Council's views on outdoor opportunities for Alaskans.

Rod Arno
Public Policy Director
Alaska Outdoor Council

Sent from Rod Arno's iPhone.

From: [Grey Mitchell](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB93 - Opposed
Date: Sunday, April 5, 2026 10:44:49 AM

Dear Senate Resources Committee:

As a lifelong Alaska resident of 59 years, I am writing to oppose HB93.

I believe this bill unfairly targets long time Alaska residents who have finally reached the point in their lives where they have options to get out of Alaska for the harsh winter months.

I've heard the sponsor and others say things like a person should have to be endure the snow and ice of winter to get the benefit of being an Alaska resident. Most of these people, including the sponsor, did not grow up in Alaska. Their endurance is a fraction of the lengths of time put into building Alaska that me and a lot of my friends have put in, but they want the State of Alaska to turn its back on us. Through this legislation, they are proposing that the old timers should be stripped of residency status even though we continue to maintain permanent residences in Alaska and don't claim residency in any other state. This is not the way Alaskans have historically treated their elders - it's disrespectful and hurtful to abruptly say that someone is not an Alaskan anymore because they take extended vacations.

When I was a kid, we looked up to those old timers who had given the majority of their lives to the state. We would have never turned our back on them simply because they finally retired and could take longer vacations. In fact, many Alaskans put in the hard work knowing that someday they might have these types of opportunities themselves.

I can understand shutting the door on someone who doesn't have a long history in Alaska, so they can't take advantage of residency status for hunting and fishing. I cannot understand treating people who have a long history in Alaska the same as a resident alien or some other "relative newcomer" (i.e. someone who has lived in Alaska for less than 50 years).

If the Legislature wants to drive away the older generations who have spent most of their lives in Alaska, I guess this bill is a good start. I hope you do not pass this bill without creating an exclusion for long-time Alaska residents.

Sincerely,
Grey Mitchell - Juneau
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Karl Rodvik](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Why HB 93 Should Not Move Forward
Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026 6:06:13 PM
Attachments: [Why HB93 Should Not Move Forward.pdf](#)
[HB 93 Statutory Conflicts Requiring Legal Review.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon Senators,

My name is Karl Rodvik. I am a lifelong Alaskan and a maritime worker.

I created the two attached documents to clearly outline the key problems with HB 93 and why I believe it should be opposed.

Why HB 93 Should Not Move Forward

Explains in plain terms that HB 93 redefines residency by proxy, creates two classes of Alaska residents, and would deny resident hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges to real Alaska residents whose absences do not fit the PFD law's narrow categories.

HB 93 Statutory Conflicts Requiring Legal Review

Explains the statutory conflicts created by HB 93 and why formal legal review is warranted before any further legislative action. It shows that HB 93 does not simply enforce Alaska's existing residency law. It creates a second, narrower residency standard for fish and game by importing PFD allowable-absence rules into that area of law, creating direct conflict with Alaska's broader residency framework.

HB 93 does not just target abuse. It would also punish legitimate Alaska residents whose lives are based here but whose absences do not fit the PFD law's narrow and technical categories. It creates two classes of Alaska residents, conflicts with existing residency law, and threatens to strip cherished resident privileges from lifelong Alaskans who have every right to be treated as full residents of this state.

This is a profound injustice, and it is exactly why HB 93 should not move forward in its current form.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 93 in its current form and to reject it, or rewrite it completely, in the Senate Resources Committee.

Thank you for your time and for protecting the rights of real Alaska residents.

Respectfully,

Karl Rodvik
Lifelong Alaskan Resident - Anchorage Property Owner
Dynamic Positioning Operator III - Transocean
U.S.C.G. Second Mate Unlimited

From: [Robert Sellers](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 93
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 10:15:47 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I know there has been a lot of opposition to HB 93, but I am writing to support it. Too many people have been taking advantage of Alaska's resources, leaving for extended periods of time only to come back when it suits them to take advantage of our relaxed laws.

Many other states have enacted similar laws. In this way, and many others, Alaska is lagging behind, still not showing any real preference for the people who live in the state. This bill is a necessary step in the right direction and I, along with many others who truly live here, would be very disappointed in our government should it not pass.

Sincerely,
Robert Sellers

From: [Brett Barringer](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: HB 93
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 6:52:20 AM

(If you want to skip to the policy problem and fix, go to the bold.)

Dear Senator,

My name is Dr. Brett A. Barringer. I am an Alaska resident, small business owner in Anchorage, and an active resident hunter who has hunted small and large game across our state for many years. I previously served for years on the Board of the Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI), including serving as President. I care deeply about protecting Alaska's wildlife resources and preserving the integrity of our resident hunting privileges.

Alaska has always had a unique population with mobile workforces, military families, and seasonal industries. Many of us were not born here — we chose Alaska. We left behind family, lifelong friends, and everything familiar to build our lives in this state. In many ways, becoming Alaskan required sacrifice and commitment. Policies that effectively penalize long-time residents for spending time with family in retirement, visiting aging parents, maintaining relationships "outside", or even snowbirding for part of the year after decades of enduring Alaska's climate feel arbitrary and disproportionate. Our laws should reflect the realities of modern Alaskan life while still protecting the integrity of resident benefits.

I appreciate the Legislature's efforts in HB 93 to protect the integrity of our resident hunting and fishing system. I strongly support the goal of preventing individuals from falsely claiming residency to obtain benefits they are not entitled to receive.

However, I am concerned about the specific language that converts otherwise clear Alaska residents into "nonresidents" based primarily on a strict day-count formula tied to time physically spent in the state per the language of the PFD.

While I understand the concern about people gaming the system, particularly individuals who have never truly lived here or who left years ago but continue to claim residency, I believe the current day-based framework risks unintentionally penalizing genuine Alaskans. Many long-term residents spend extended periods "Outside" for legitimate reasons: seasonal work, business obligations, medical care, vacation, visiting out-of-state family and friends, or spending meaningful time with aging parents. A rigid numerical threshold will undoubtedly capture individuals who are unquestionably Alaskan in domicile, intent, and community ties.

Not The Solution:

Aligning to the PFD is an arbitrary standard of residency regardless of ease of enforcement. Disenfranchising even 1 true Alaskan resident from the benefits thereof is 1 too many. Field verification of residency is the wrong place. Let the State Troopers focus on other things.

The Solution:

I respectfully suggest that instead of relying primarily on a day-count trigger, the Legislature

consider strengthening enforcement mechanisms that directly target actual fraud through random audit.

There needs to be harsh penalties to discourage fraud by making it not worth it, which will minimize the number of people gaming the system. That should include large fines (\$5-10,000) and losing hunting rights for 10 years in all states participating in the multi state joint compact. That has teeth and makes it not worth it.

Then you need to do some sort of random audit or verification of residency. You could audit 10% of resident licenses and verify them in some way every year. It would be easy to cross reference that 10% against the PFD to remove a bunch of people from the audit who are obviously Alaskans making investigating the remaining few a manageable task. You could then investigate the remaining few cross checking residency in other states including hunting/fishing licenses, physical residences, voter registration, vehicle registration, driver's license, ect. If people start getting caught, losing hunting rights for 10 years in all states, and paying severe fines, the number of people defrauding the system will plummet.

This approach would allow the state to address bad actors directly without creating collateral consequences for established residents who temporarily spend significant time out of state but maintain their domicile and intent to remain in Alaska.

Thank you for your service and for your work on this issue. I appreciate your consideration of this concern and would welcome any opportunity to provide additional input.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brett A. Barringer
Anchorage, Alaska

907-947-0983 cell

From: [Jerry Cates](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Opposal to HB 93
Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 2:18:35 AM

To Whom it may concern :

Hello, my name is Jerry Cates, longtime Alaska Resident here. I am strongly opposed to HB 93 and am voicing my strong opposition to it. Please consider this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Cates

Phone # 907-741-7161

P.O. BOX 1266
STERLING, AK 99672

From: [Dana Seagars](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [Sen. James Kaufman](#)
Subject: HB 93 in the Senate Resources
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 6:12:20 PM

To Senate Resources Committe Members:

Please consider the following comments and concerns on the subject bill as I have outlined previously to members of the State Senate including those in my district.

In particular I call your attention to highlighted sections below that identifies a need to amend this bill so as to not take away the rights of elder legitimate Alaska residents simply because we are "snowbirds." Surely after decades of living, working, and contributing to this state there has to be a way to permit seniors to continue our traditons of harvesting our *abundant* fish and game for both "sport" and subsistence purposes.

And for the moment I want to emphasize "abundance." While I hear the concern and desire of some to protect our resources from Outside usurpers and evil doers, the annual Kenai River red run consistently exceeds the goals of ADFG fishery managers. Surely the number of us legitimate seniors dipnetting on this wonderful river don't impact in any measurable way the return of this stock.

Is disenfranchiing those of us who love to participate in this annual harvest really doing anything to protect the resource? Prove it to me otherwise and I'll stand down.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of my comments.

Dana J Seagars
10650 Lone Tree Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dana Seagars <d_seagars@yahoo.com>
To: Sen. James Kaufman <sen.james.kaufman@akleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2026 at 08:48:12 AM HST
Subject: Re: House bill 93 referred to the Senate disqualifies solid Alaska residents

Sen Kaufman:

I appreciate your reply acknowledging my concerns with this bill and for the info on how to say updated on its reviews.

I am absolutely stressed and dismayed that those of us who have lived through (4) decades of winters here could be denied our right to subsistence harvest salmon by dipnet each summer solely because we have become *Alaskan snowbirds during the winter*. As a retiree our travels to visit family Outside and

recreate in the warmth means we no longer qualify for the PFD. That doesn't mean we are not still "Real Alaskans," - we are Alaska home owners, active voters, and property tax paying Alaskans.

Frankly at this point in my life (74 yrs), I am grateful for not having to spend hours documenting my coming and goings, I'd rather see the funds in the Permanent Fund go to others who need it more or to stay in the fund so it grows into the future. So no, I don't mind giving up "my" PFD. **HOWEVER I AM ANGERED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOOSING MY RIGHT TO HUNT OR SUBSISTENCE FISH AS A LEGAL ALASKA RESIDENT.**

Thank you for your time,
Dana Seagars

On Friday, March 6, 2026 at 09:24:32 AM AKST, Sen. James Kaufman <sen.james.kaufman@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Dana & Claudette,

Thanks for writing to me with your concerns about House Bill 93. It is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee and will go to the Senate Resources Committee next. So far, its only had one hearing in Judiciary two weeks ago and has not been scheduled for another so far.

I am currently serving on the Senate Finance Committee and so I will most likely not see the bill unless it makes it to the Senate Floor. However, I am already digging into it and I will keep your thoughts in mind if that happens!

In the meantime, you can text "HB93" to 559-245-2529 to enroll in text alerts to each time the bill is scheduled for a hearing or moves to its next stage.

Please keep in touch!

Regards,

JK

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District F, Abbott Loop, Huffman/O'Malley & Lower Hillside

(907) 465-4949 Capitol Office

(907) 269-0244 Anchorage

f / senatorkaufman

From: Dana Seagars <d_seagars@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 12:28 PM

To: Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Julie Coulombe <Rep.Julie.Coulombe@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kevin McCabe <Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>; info@chitinadipnetters.com

Subject: House bill 93 referred to the Senate disqualifies solid Alaska residents

Senator Kaufman and all:

Now comes HB 93 which threatens our status of residency and the ability to access our State's fish and game resources upon which we partially subsist and depend. That this bill is clearly flawed was shown by Rep McCabe's concerns "that it would disqualify 'solid Alaska residents' from resident harvesting privileges."

I am a 37 yr Alaska resident. I have owned a Hillside home in this great State since shortly after arriving in October 1988. Now 74, I fully retired in 2015. Freed of the restrictions imposed by full employment, my wife and I have been enjoying freedom to pursue lifelong adventures and time with family (now scattered across the country). I'm a dedicated Alaskan who designed and built a beautiful new home on the Hillside in 2016. In the Spring through early Fall, my wife (a certified Alaska Master

Gardener) and I grow food and flowers in our backyard, hike, bike, and kayak throughout southcentral, volunteer on GoAK beach clean ups in Prince William Sound, and dipnet on the Kenai for our year's supply of reds. We are grateful to have the health and the means to be able to live our dream of a blessed retirement as Alaska residents.

Retirement has been described to us as having three stages: the go-go years, the slow-go years, and the no-go years. Stage one involves lots of physically demanding activities and travel, stage two more cushy and observational ones, and stage three lots of time of sitting around to enjoy more contemplative times, hopefully within the comforts of our Hillside home.

Being somewhere between stages 1 and 2, we have been traveling the USA and the world as possible. Our three children and two grandchildren have chosen to move out of state, now living in South Carolina and Oregon. We love to travel to their states to spend time while we are able. With investment property in California and Hawaii, we also often travel to work on those properties. And so beginning with our frequent travels out of state in 2022 we no longer qualified nor claimed the Permanent Fund Dividend. And we have not claimed it since. That doesn't mean we are not still Alaska *residents*. We are both registered AK voters, licensed AK drivers, have vehicles and a small boat licensed in Alaska, and pay our Anchorage property taxes. We are listed as AK residents on our Federal tax returns, and we pay *non-resident* income and property taxes in both HI and CA. There is no question in our minds that we are Alaska residents for now and the future. There is no question that we value ***our right as Alaska residents to subsistence fish for red salmon on the Kenai every year. We should not be penalized for living a fulfilling retirement!***

The language as proposed in HB 93 appears to ***negate the determination of residency as defined in AS§ 01.10.055*** in so far as hunting and fishing are concerned; furthermore, it ***sidesteps the clear process for determining residency*** as outlined in AS§43.23.008 (d) and specifically (e) (1)-(4) et seq.

As Alaska residents we strongly object to the elimination of our rights to hunt or fish in our state of residency. And we furthermore object to the nightmare potential for becoming "Stateless" by virtue of no longer being considered a resident even though we have done nothing to claim any sort of residency in any other state.

These are serious inconsistencies that must be clarified by thorough judicial review and by amendment. This is a seriously flawed bill and must be defeated in the Senate unless it is amended substantially. We strongly recommend that no further action should be taken on this bill until both of these steps are taken.

One alternative would be to amend the bill to provide an exception to HB93 (Sec. 2. (a)(3)) that will allow for those seniors who have demonstrated loyalty to State residency by (1) a documented residency of 10 years or longer (via voter registration or driver's license records) and/or by (2) holding a Senior (over 60) permanent fishing or hunting license and/or who hold a Senior (over 65) property tax exemption.

As a 37 year resident of this great state, I urge you in the strongest terms of collaboration and bi-partisanship to consider alternative ways to avoid disenfranchising the rights of all Alaska retirees to fish and hunt in the golden years of our retirement. ***To do so will only hasten the departure of many seniors from this State.***

We're retired Alaskans who like to travel & who love living here – should that eliminate our right to dipnet or hunt?

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to us to discuss these concerns and to possibly brainstorm avenues to resolve this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Dana J Seagars and Claudette Yesmant

10650 Lone Tree Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-242-6388

From: [Karl Rodvik](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: Why HB 93 Should Not Move Forward — One-Page Fact Sheet
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 12:13:18 PM
Attachments: [Why HB93 Should Not Move Forward.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon Senators,

My name is Karl Rodvik. I am a lifelong Alaskan and a maritime worker.

Attached is a one-page fact sheet explaining why HB 93 must be opposed.

This bill would strip real Alaska residents of resident hunting and fishing privileges by redefining residency through the back door. In my case, HB 93 would deny me those privileges because I do not fall within the PFD law's narrow maritime absence category, even though I live here, vote here, pay taxes here, and claim no other state as my residence.

I am not some edge case. I am one of many real Alaskans who would be harmed by this bill, including rotational workers, pilots and aircrew, remote workers, retirees, civilian defense personnel, maritime workers, and families tied to those same absence patterns.

HB 93 does not just target abuse. It would also punish legitimate Alaska residents whose lives are based here but whose absences do not fit the PFD law's narrow and technical categories. It creates two classes of Alaska residents, conflicts with existing residency law, and threatens to strip cherished resident privileges from lifelong Alaskans who have every right to be treated as full residents of this state.

This is a profound injustice, and it is exactly why HB 93 should not move forward in its current form.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 93 in its current form and to reject it, or rewrite it completely, in the Senate Resources Committee.

Thank you for your time and for protecting the rights of real Alaska residents.

Respectfully,

Karl Rodvik
Lifelong Alaskan Resident - Anchorage Property Owner
Dynamic Positioning Operator - Transocean
U.S.C.G. Second Mate Unlimited

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: FW: Subject: HB 93 – Required Amendment to Protect Resident Hunting & Fishing Rights
Date: Monday, March 30, 2026 8:05:51 AM

From: Jack Hendrickson <jackh153@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2026 7:17 AM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Subject: Subject: HB 93 – Required Amendment to Protect Resident Hunting & Fishing Rights

Dear Senator Cathy Geisel,

I hope this finds you well.

I am writing as someone born and raised in Alaska, a Fairbanks homeowner, taxpayer, and an avid outdoorsman regarding Alaska House Bill 93. As currently written, HB 93 effectively ties resident hunting and fishing eligibility to Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) qualification. This creates a serious and unintended consequence: it excludes legitimate Alaska residents who do not qualify for a PFD due to work or lifestyle circumstances. I have not received a PFD since beginning work as an expatriate outside Alaska. However, my residency has not changed. My home is in Alaska, I spend my time off in Alaska, and I actively hunt and fish every year. I fully intend to remain an Alaskan resident. Under HB 93, I—and many others—could lose resident hunting and fishing rights despite maintaining clear, continuous ties to Alaska. This will directly impact:

- Commercial pilots
- Rotational workers employed outside Alaska
- Professionals with extensive travel requirements
- Longtime residents who seasonally reside outside the state

PFD eligibility is an administrative standard—it is not, and should not become, the defining test of Alaska residency.

Requested Amendment consideration:

HB 93 must be amended to explicitly separate PFD eligibility from eligibility for resident hunting and fishing privileges. Residency for these purposes should continue to be defined by domicile, intent to remain, and physical ties to

Alaska—not dividend qualification.

Without this correction, HB 93 will fundamentally and incorrectly redefine residency, stripping rights from Alaskans who have long lived, invested, and identified themselves as residents of this state.

I strongly request you to consider
this issue before advancing the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jack N Hendrickson

From: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#)
To: [Paige Brown](#)
Subject: FW: House bill 93 referred to the Senate disqualifies solid Alaska residents like us.
Date: Friday, March 27, 2026 2:53:15 PM

From: Dana Seagars <d_seagars@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: Tom Begich <tsbegich@gmail.com>; Tom Begich <tombegich@icloud.com>
Subject: House bill 93 referred to the Senate disqualifies solid Alaska residents like us.

Senators:

It is my understanding this bill has been referred to Senate Resources. Please review my thoughts on this bill clearly laid out below. In short, I am ***strongly opposed to this bill without amendment***. Please give some serious consideration to those of us honest, long time Alaskan residents "of a certain age" so that we may continue to enjoy our amazing hunting and Subsistence fishing (e.g., dipnetting) activities. We love living here but now find it physically difficult to navigate our winter conditions and are grateful to be able to temporarily "snowbird" through several other states so we can be with family and friends Outside. Doing so should not mean we are Disenfranchised of our rights to harvest our ABUNDANT natural resources. There are plenty to go around, even for us "elders."

We're retired Alaskans who like to travel & who love living here – should that eliminate our right to dipnet or hunt?

Sincerely,
Dana Seagars and Claudette Yesmant
10650 Lone Tree Drive
Anchorage AK 99507
907-242-6388

On Friday, March 6, 2026 at 08:48:12 AM HST, Dana Seagars <d_seagars@yahoo.com> wrote:

Sen Kaufman:

I appreciate your reply acknowledging my concerns with this bill and for the info on how to say updated on its reviews.

I am absolutely stressed and dismayed that those of us who have lived through (4) decades of winters here could be denied our right to subsistence harvest salmon by dipnet each summer solely because we have become *Alaskan snowbirds during the*

winter. As a retiree our travels to visit family Outside and recreate in the warmth means we no longer qualify for the PFD. That doesn't mean we are not still "Real Alaskans," - home owners, active voters, and property tax paying Alaskans.

Frankly at this point in my life (74 yrs), I am grateful for not having to spend hours documenting my coming and goings, I'd rather see the funds go to others who need it more or to stay in the fund so it grows into the future. So no, I don't mind giving up "my" PFD. HOWEVER I AM ANGERED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF LOOSING MY RIGHT TO HUNT OR SUBSISTENCE FISH AS A LEGAL ALASKA RESIDENT.

Thank you for your time,
Dana Seagars

On Friday, March 6, 2026 at 09:24:32 AM AKST, Sen. James Kaufman <sen.james.kaufman@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Dana & Claudette,

Thanks for writing to me with your concerns about House Bill 93. It is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee and will go to the Senate Resources Committee next. So far, its only had one hearing in Judiciary two weeks ago and has not been scheduled for another so far.

I am currently serving on the Senate Finance Committee and so I will most likely not see the bill unless it makes it to the Senate Floor. However, I am already digging into it and I will keep your thoughts in mind if that happens!

In the meantime, you can text "HB93" to 559-245-2529 to enroll in text alerts to each time the bill is scheduled for a hearing or moves to its next stage.

Please keep in touch!

Regards,

JK

SENATOR JAMES KAUFMAN

Alaska State Legislature

Senate District F, Abbott Loop, Huffman/O'Malley & Lower Hillside

(907) 465-4949 Capitol Office

(907) 269-0244 Anchorage

f / senatorkaufman

From: Dana Seagars <d_seagars@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 12:28 PM

To: Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Julie Coulombe <Rep.Julie.Coulombe@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>; Rep. Kevin McCabe <Rep.Kevin.McCabe@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. Donny Olson <Sen.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Löki Tobin <Sen.Loki.Tobin@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bill Wielechowski <Sen.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>; info@chitinadipnetters.com

Subject: House bill 93 referred to the Senate disqualifies solid Alaska residents

Senator Kaufman and all:

Now comes HB 93 which threatens our status of residency and the ability to access our State's fish and game resources upon which we partially subsist and depend. That this bill is clearly flawed was shown by Rep McCabe's concerns "that it would disqualify 'solid Alaska residents' from resident harvesting privileges."

I am a 37 yr Alaska resident. I have owned a Hillside home in this great State since shortly after arriving in October 1988. Now 74, I fully retired in 2015. Freed of the restrictions imposed by full employment, my wife and I have been enjoying freedom to pursue lifelong adventures and time with family (now scattered across the country). I'm a dedicated Alaskan who designed and built a beautiful new home on the Hillside in 2016. In the Spring through early Fall, my wife (a certified Alaska Master Gardener) and I grow food and flowers in our backyard, hike, bike, and kayak throughout southcentral, volunteer on GoAK beach clean ups in Prince William Sound, and dipnet on the Kenai for our year's supply of reds. We are grateful to have the health and the means to be able to live our dream of a blessed retirement as Alaska residents.

Retirement has been described to us as having three stages: the go-go years, the slow-go years, and the no-go years. Stage one involves lots of physically demanding

activities and travel, stage two more cushy and observational ones, and stage three lots of time of sitting around to enjoy more contemplative times, hopefully within the comforts of our Hillside home.

Being somewhere between stages 1 and 2, we have been traveling the USA and the world as possible. Our three children and two grandchildren have chosen to move out of state, now living in South Carolina and Oregon. We love to travel to their states to spend time while we are able. With investment property in California and Hawaii, we also often travel to work on those properties. And so beginning with our frequent travels out of state in 2022 we no longer qualified nor claimed the Permanent Fund Dividend. And we have not claimed it since. That doesn't mean we are not still Alaska *residents*. We are both registered AK voters, licensed AK drivers, have vehicles and a small boat licensed in Alaska, and pay our Anchorage property taxes. We are listed as AK residents on our Federal tax returns, and we pay *non-resident* income and property taxes in both HI and CA. There is no question in our minds that we are Alaska residents for now and the future. There is no question that we value ***our right as Alaska residents to subsistence fish for red salmon on the Kenai every year. We should not be penalized for living a fulfilling retirement!***

The language as proposed in HB 93 appears to ***negate the determination of residency as defined in AS§ 01.10.055*** in so far as hunting and fishing are concerned; furthermore, it ***sidesteps the clear process for determining residency*** as outlined in AS§43.23.008 (d) and specifically (e) (1)-(4) et seq.

As Alaska residents we strongly object to the elimination of our rights to hunt or fish in our state of residency. And we furthermore object to the nightmare potential for becoming "Stateless" by virtue of no longer being considered a resident even though we have done nothing to claim any sort of residency in any other state.

These are serious inconsistencies that must be clarified by thorough judicial review and by amendment. This is a seriously flawed bill and must be defeated in the Senate unless it is amended substantially. We strongly recommend that no further action should be taken on this bill until both of these steps are taken.

One alternative would be to amend the bill to provide an exception to HB93 (Sec. 2. (a)(3)) that **will allow** for those seniors who have demonstrated loyalty to State residency by (1) a documented residency of 10 years or longer (via voter registration or driver's license records) and/or by (2) holding a Senior (over 60) permanent fishing or hunting license and/or who hold a Senior (over 65) property tax exemption.

As a 37 year resident of this great state, I urge you in the strongest terms of collaboration and bi-partisanship to consider alternative ways to avoid disenfranchising the rights of all Alaska retirees to fish and hunt in the golden years of our retirement. ***To do so will only hasten the departure of many seniors from this State.***

We're retired Alaskans who like to travel & who love living here – should that eliminate our right to dipnet or hunt?

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please feel free to reach out to us to discuss these concerns and to possibly brainstorm avenues to resolve this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Dana J Seagars and Claudette Yesmant

10650 Lone Tree Drive

Anchorage, AK 99507

907-242-6388



April 20, 2026

Alaska Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter of Support — House Bill 93

Dear Chair Giessel and Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

We write to express our strong support for House Bill 93. This bill takes an important step toward protecting Alaska's fish and game resources and ensuring that the people who depend on them most, Alaska Native and rural communities, are able to continue living our ways of life.

Native Peoples Action (NPA) is a statewide, nonpartisan organization that strives to provide Alaska Native communities and our traditional values with a voice at all levels of policymaking. The foundation of our work focuses on advocacy, education and information sharing, supporting local decision-making, and building stronger unity among Indigenous communities to collectively address the issues impacting our ways of life.

For the communities we work with, hunting, fishing, and trapping are not optional. They are how we feed our families, carry our cultures forward, and take care of our people. These practices come with responsibility to the land, to the water, and to future generations, and that responsibility has always guided how we harvest and share.

We continue to hear from communities across the state about increasing pressure on local resources. When residency standards are weak or easily worked around, people without real ties to these lands are able to benefit while our communities bear the impact. That impact is real. It shows up in empty freezers, declining fish and game, and growing strain on the systems our people rely on every day.

House Bill 93 addresses this directly by strengthening residency requirements and tying access to a genuine, ongoing connection to Alaska. The people who benefit from these

resources should be the ones who live here, depend on them, and share the responsibility to sustain them.

Our communities have always practiced stewardship. We take what we need, we share what we have, and we think beyond ourselves to the generations that come next. HB 93 supports that responsibility by helping ensure that Alaska's resources remain connected to the people who are accountable to them.

We urge your support for House Bill 93 and ask that the committee recognize the importance of protecting the resources and ways of life that sustain Alaska Native and rural communities across this state.

Gunalchéesh / Háw'aa / Quyana / Mahsi' / Baasee' / Maasee' / Dogedinh / Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Averie Wells". The script is cursive and fluid.

Averie Wells
Government Relations Manager
Native Peoples Action

House Bill, NO. 93

Oppose as Written

2/6/2026

HB 93 ignores the unique needs of Alaska's Senior Residents and denies many of them continued access to Fish and Game (F&G) and their way of life. I'm 74 and have been an Alaska resident for 53 years, in the early 70's I was 21, left Ohio, headed to Alaska with \$500, a Datsun pickup and never looked back. I made a life here, married here, raised a family here, owned multiple businesses and homes here, and have made substantial economic and social contributions to this state. Make no mistake, I am an Alaskan that has no desire to call any other place home.

However, apparently HB 93 doesn't think so. To my wife and I, as with most Alaskans, Alaska's way of life, freedoms, and resident access to fish and game (F&G) is by far the single most precious resource Alaska has to offer. Take it away and you're left with long, dark, frozen winters, and an expensive existence with no shortage of hardships.

Over the years my wife and I have saved and planned for the day we could retire, travel, live between Fairbanks and Wrangell, find warmer winters, and spend the remainder of our lives living as we please. No apologies, we earned it. We have invested a whole lot of money, both in Fairbanks and Wrangell, to have places to live and equipment to access our Alaskan way of life during retirement. Even in retirement we're spending about \$60,000 a year in state just to keep that lifestyle.

Sorry, I guess I'm starting to ramble, I better get to HB 93. I'm sort of a bottom-line kind of guy, so here it is. My wife and I are getting old, kind of very old, winters here are no longer safe or healthy for us, like it or not, we need to spend winters outside to maintain our health and wellbeing.

There is not another state in our country that I know of which requires a resident to stay a minimum number of days in state or lose resident benefits. In fact, most do the opposite, they make it as easy as they can to entice and keep residents, you're welcome to come and go all you want. Oh, but not Alaska and HB 93, it says, if you don't stay 180 days a year in-state willingly, we're going to force you to stay, or we are going to take away the very reason you're here in the first place.

And don't give me this; "Alaska has a 180 day in state mandate for the permanent fund (PFD), so it's okay to have it before allowing me to hunt and fish as a resident". If I don't qualify for a PFD it's going to cost me \$1,000. If I don't qualify for resident hunting and fishing it's going to cost me my very way of life, my consumptive use, my reason for being in Alaska. It's going to make my nearly one-million-dollar in-state investment to retire here of no real use to me, and it's going to take my soul.

All for what? What did I do wrong? What laws have I broken? What did I do to deserve to have my resident hunting and fishing taken away? NOTHING! Look, I am absolutely positive that if some people are violating fish and game residency laws it can be fixed without mandating that 740,000 Alaskan residents stay in-state 6 months or more annually or lose their resident hunting and fishing privileges. It's insane.

HB 93, will hit Alaska's seniors particularly hard, winters can be flat out dangerous for them. Many of them have spent a good portion of their life here. It's really caring of the state to now tell them if you don't stay in-state as long as we think you should; no more resident fishing or consumptive use activities for you. Jeez...Thanks.

Ok, back to the bottom line, after having spent most of my life here if you would like me to remain a resident, contributing economic and social benefits to the state, then treat me like a resident! If you want to treat me like a non-resident then that is exactly what I'm going to be!

Solution

The solution is actually very easy, remove the needless 180-day in-state mandate. It adversely affects innocent residents, is the largest opposition to this bill, and **does not** stop non-residents from establishing resident fish and game access while only having spent a few days in state. (If you would like to understand why, then please read my other submitted testimony on HB 93).

Or, if that doesn't work for you, place a senior exemption in the bill; any resident 60 years or older does not have to meet the 180 day in-state mandate.

Thanks for reading our testimony,
Ken and Anna Vorisek
timberwf@gci.net
907-322-1413

HOUSE BILL 93
OPPOSE As Written
2/12/26

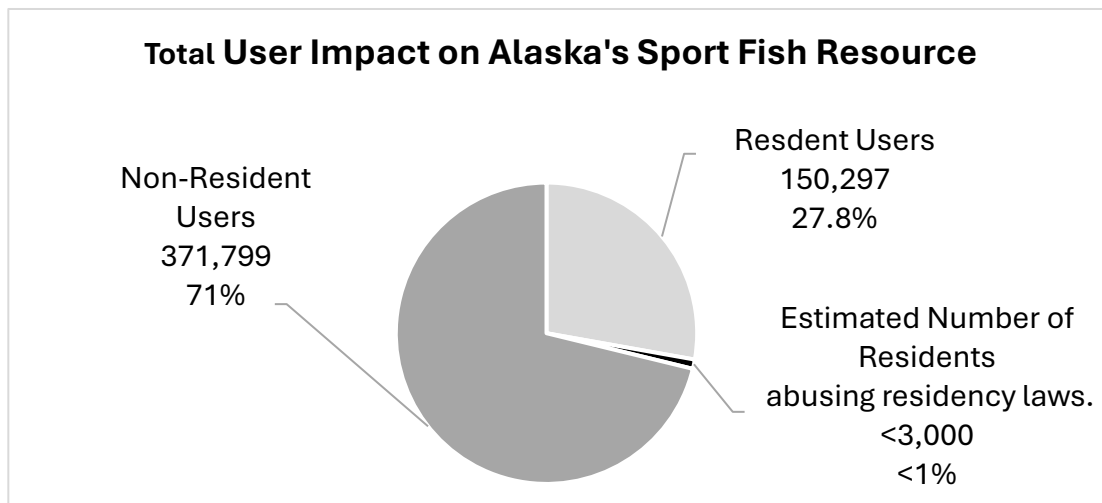
Dear Senators,

HB 93 does not meet the basic threshold of documenting that there is a need. Sponsors have not provided facts or hard evidence to prove or quantify a need. Their justification is anecdotal. Anecdotal by definition means, **“not necessarily true or reliable, because it’s based on personal accounts rather than facts or research”**.

Stated Purpose of HB 93: To reduce pressure (harvest levels) on the sport fishing and hunting resource by restricting resident access of those residents who only spend a month or two in-state annually, including retirees. The impetus for this concern comes primarily from Southeast Alaska communities regarding the fish resource.

Sponsors have not provided material facts or sources that quantify the alleged abuse. They are claiming a need based on a guess. **So how many residents fall under HB 93’s stated purpose? 100, 200, 500, 2000, you pick the number.** Surely there are less than 3000 residents that own live aboard boats or homes in Alaska but only come up to fish and hunt as residents.

According to Alaska Fish and Game in 2024 there were 371,799 non-resident sport fishing licenses sold in Alaska and 150,297 resident licenses, including senior resident permits. For a total of 522,096 people fishing in Alaska’s waters. HB 93 is targeting less than an estimated 3000 users, a statistically insignificant impact on the resource. Yet its impact will strip over 100,000 law abiding residence of their fish and game privileges.



HB 93 Impact on Residents:

HB 93 requires that an Alaskan resident qualify for the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) (AS 43.23.008) to be able to hunt and fish as an Alaska resident.

- Alaska's population is about 740,000 residents.
- In 2025 Alaska issued approximately 600,000 PFDs.
- That leaves about 140,000 Alaskan residents that did not receive a PFD.
- Failure to qualify is the primary reason for not receiving a PFD.
- Now apply PFD requirements to resident hunting and fishing.
- Allowing for 40,000 first year residents and those who did not want to apply.
- HB 93 will now disqualify about an additional 100,000 residents from resident fishing and hunting privileges, privileges they currently have under current law.

HB 93 "Sponsor Statement" says:

"Importantly, this bill does not change the bag and possession limits for out-of-state hunters or fisherman who come to Alaska to participate in the state's well-managed hunts and fisheries."

- Sponsors want you to believe that the estimated <3000 resident abuses are damaging the resource but that **371,799 non-residents hauling fish out of state**, are fine and of no consequences.
- Sponsors want you to believe that the managers of the **"states well-managed hunts and fisheries"** can manage over a half million users annually but are incapable of managing a statistically insignificant number of users in a localized area.
- Sponsors want you to believe that a problem is so large that the legislature must step in and **strip over 100,000 residents of their resident fish and game privileges**, their freedom of movement between states, and their access to a "public trust wildlife resource". Many of these residents are long-time Alaskans who have and continue to provide significant economic and social benefits to Alaska.

Non-residents haul more fish out of state each year than all Alaskan residents catch. HB 93 pits Alaskan resident users against each other and undoubtedly will drive some to move out of state.

HB 93's logic is, if you don't spend as much time in state as we want you to willingly, we will force you to by taking away the very reason you are here in the first place; your wildlife resources and way of life.

Sincerely,

Ken Vorisek
Past Advisory Committee Member
53 Year Consumptive Use Resident
timberwf@gci.net
907-322-1413

Alaska Regional Coalition

Representing 165 Alaskan Communities

April 2, 2026

Subject: SUPPORT for HB93 Residency Req: Hunting, Trapping, Fishing

Dear Members of the 34th Alaska State Legislature:

The Alaska Regional Coalition, which represents 165 rural Alaska communities and 99,000 residents, writes in support of House Bill 93, “An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges.” HB93 strengthens Alaska’s residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing, and provides an important tool for protecting many Alaskans’ subsistence way of life.

Alaskans rely on salmon, moose, deer, shellfish, and other traditional foods for their wellbeing, and these resources are increasingly strained by population pressure, habitat destruction, and nonresident competition. Access to fish and game is important for all Alaskans, and for Alaska Native peoples, subsistence is not a recreational activity—it is a core expression of sovereignty, identity, and food security. By aligning residency requirements for hunting and fishing with requirements for the Permanent Fund Dividend eligibility, HB93 helps to ensure that access to these resources is fair and consistent.

ARC maintains HB93 will help to reduce misuse of resident hunting and fishing licenses by individuals who reside outside Alaska for a portion of the year but claim residency for lower fees and higher harvest limits. This legislation will support rural and Tribal communities who depend on these resources for nutritional, cultural, and economic survival, and it will strengthen conservation efforts by creating clear and enforceable residency standards for wildlife management.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this bill and for your commitment to protecting the traditional foods and cultural lifeways of Alaska Native peoples.

We look forward to continued partnership as HB93 moves through in the Senate.

Ana baasee', Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Quyana.



The Alaska Regional Coalition (ARC) is a coalition of seven regional Tribal non-profit service providers that are subject matter experts in the realities of living and delivering essential services in rural Alaska. We represent Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Maniilaq Association, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS), Chugachmiut, Kawerak Inc., Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP).

Together, we represent 165 communities and 99,000 Alaskans across the state.