

Honorable Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

I am David Egelston of Thorne Bay. I am a retired Colonel from the New York State Environmental Conservation Police, the Brown Shirts in New York State. I am a member of the East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee. and secretary of the Thorne Bay Fisheries Association. I am also the one to suggest linking the PFD requirements to residency in Alaska, my only home since 2011.

I strongly support Representative Himschoot's House Bill 93. I could spend half an hour telling you about my experiences dealing with residency in New York and Alaska. But I don't want to lose you.

Bottom line is that our resources are being stolen by people who purport to be residents because they own property or leave a camper trailer here and claim residency. If nothing else, you should be concerned with the loss of revenue to ADF&G. If this bill passes and enforced there will be increased revenue measured in hundreds of thousands of dollars as the fake resident purchase non-resident licenses.

Passage of this bill would also decrease the take of many trophy species that residents may take at very reasonable costs. Residents have bag and possession limits that are much more liberal than non-residents. We real residents depend on the fish and game taken for our tables. I have a problem with fakes coming into our state to steal game under the flag of residency. Too many of our real state residents are fighting to maintain subsistence lifestyles while fakes are taking boxes of fish and game south to distribute to friends or freezer burn.

I ask that you vote to move this bill forward to save our resources, increase funds to ADF&G and make it easier for our Wildlife Troopers to remove the weeds from the garden.

Thank you for your consideration,

Colonel David Egelston  
NYS Environmental Conservation Police (retired)  
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