

Letter(s) of Support

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 9:55 AM

To: House Fisheries <HouseFisheries@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot
<Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Testimony HB 93

To House Fisheries Committee Chair Representative Stutes, Vice Chair Edgmon and Committee members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB93. I urge you to support this bill as presented. I am a 47+ year resident of the state and a person who values highly our fisheries and game resources. I have seen my share of people who have “stretched” the definition of resident for the purpose of harvesting as much as they can in season and then leaving Alaska in order to fill their freezers in the Lower 48.

With the pressures on our resources and the importance of food security for Alaska residents who have truly made this their home, this bill is needed without delay.

Please do support its passage out of committee and on the House Floor.

Thank you for your work and crafting this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction
Ellamar

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)

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

February 19, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I fully support and agree with the basis of HB 93. With more people, better technology and generally less

resources in the state than in the past I think this is a vital time to take measures to ensure the people

that actually reside in the State of Alaska have the resources they need.

I feel that spending 6 months here to continue to have all the privileges that a resident receives is still an

overall low standard. On the average I would say a person may have to endure 30 days of non-optimum

temperatures or conditions to meet their required time here in the summer months. This is very little to

ask of a person for the benefits they receive to maintain their resident privileges.

The privileges of resident hunting/fishing benefits far outweigh the benefits of the PFD for an individual.

The same can be said for the negative effect to the State of Alaska. Yet the PFD program has a

mechanism so that residents of the state are the ones receiving it. The monetary loss for the state and

gain for the individual is hard to quantify but here is a small example.

If a non-resident hunted in Alaska for moose alone they would pay roughly \$1200 in license and fees.

That seems to be a fairly average PFD payment. This is a 1 species hunt that meets or exceeds the

normal monetary value of the PFD. This doesn't factor in extra species of hunting big game, fishing or

waterfowl, or the potential of second degree kindred as well. The monetary value of resident hunting

and fishing far exceeds the PFD in my opinion.

Why does the PFD have a mechanism and the hunting/fishing not have any mechanism for protection

against blatant abuse?

Bottom line is the state should not allow a system that people are abusing and using for their personal

gain over the resources of the state.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns

Respectfully submitted

Jacob Combs

Tok, AK 99780

Letter(s) of Opposition

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

My name is Gary Hollier. I testified Tuesday at your committee in opposition to HB 93.

I am not a real good speaker, so would like to put my thoughts in an email.

I am a 71 year life long Alaskan resident. I was born in Seward and live in Kenai permanently.

My Father came to Alaska in 1938 and my Mother in 1945.

My parent homesteaded in 1949, in Kenai.

My Father slipped on the ice at the age of 71. He broke his hip and elbow. He passed away 6 weeks later from complications from the fall.

I have hunted on the homestead, most of my life. The homestead is close to the Kenai River, where I spent considerable time sport fishing.

I have had an Alaskan Drivers license, since 1969.

I have only voted in Alaska. My mail is in Alaska. My primary residence is in Alaska. My business is in Alaska. I file taxes in Alaska. My vehicles, boats, etc are all registered in

Alaska. I intend to be an Alaskan resident till I die

I have received all my PFD's.

I get NO benefits from another State or country.

In the future, if I would like to spend more time, in a warmer climate, so I would not follow my Father's foot steps, fall on the ice and then pass away 6 weeks later, I would like to be able to do that.

Under HB 93, if I was gone from the State of Alaska 25 or 176 days, I could retain my resident hunting and sport fish license.

If I was absent for 187 days, I would still be a resident of Alaska, but would not be eligible for a resident hunting and sport fishing license. I believe this is wrong. I would get ZERO benefits from another State in the Union.

If I was absent for more than 180 days, would not qualify for the PFD, but I shouldn't lose my resident hunting and fishing license.

Where does legislation like this stop?

If you don't qualify for the PFD, you have to turn in your Alaskan Drivers license, you can't vote in Alaska.....

I am being facetious.

Where should I be able to hunt and fish as a resident?

Listening to the Committee on Tuesday, it seems that this is mostly a SE Alaska issue. Representative Vance stated, in her district, that this is not a real big issue.

I can't believe that many individuals are jumping thru all the hoops needed to qualify to be an Alaskan resident to fish grayling in the Tanana River.

Yet I don't think that an Elder or Senior Citizen should be denied resident hunting and fishing rights, that they have been entitled to for decades, for not qualifying for the PFD, as long as they don't get a benefit from another State.

If they did get a benefit, I. E. primary residence, drivers license, vote, resident hunting and fishing license, etc, then under Alaskan statute they would not be an Alaskan resident.

Therefore not be eligible for resident hunting and fishing rights.

Individuals will always try to "game" the system, I don't see how HB 93 really helps enforcement.

There is a provision in the PFD statute called the Five Year Rule. It states something to the effect that if an individual is gone for more than 180 days each of the five preceding years, that individual would be presumed not to be a Resident.

It would appear that this ruling, would be the equivalent to what HB 93 is trying to do.

Alaska has been very good to me, my children, and grandchildren, who are all life long Alaskan residents.

Please to don't pass HB 93.

Thank you for your time and commitment to serve in the Alaskan legislature

Gary L Hollier
Kenai, Ak