



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 28, 2024

To: Senator Jesse Bjorkman

Re: SB 171 – Residency requirement for hunt/fish/trap license

Dear Senator Bjorkman,

Thank you for introducing SB 171. Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) is in **support** of SB 171, but we have some concerns about how it may affect certain Alaskans who may need to travel out of state for work, or for other reasons, that don't fall under the current PFD exemptions.

One example came up at the Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting discussion of HB 201 and SB 171 on January 10th, 2024, which you attended by teleconference. One of the members of that committee is an iron worker and explained that he can't find enough work in the state and often must work out of state for more than 180 days. He owns a home here, where his wife and children live, and doesn't receive benefits from another state. And as mentioned, he is a member of the Fairbanks F&G Advisory Committee, which requires one to be a local resident.

As SB 171 is currently written, he would not be able to receive a resident hunt/fish/trap license. He would not be considered a resident and he would have to hire a guide to continue to hunt sheep and brown bear as he's done for years as a resident. There are likely many more who fall under the same scenario.

We also have questions on how this bill may affect current holders of the Permanent Identification Card hunt/fish/trap license for seniors 60 years of age and older. Those license holders are not required to meet the requirements for a PFD.

We recommend consideration of an amendment for an exemption for Alaskans who may work out of state more than 180 days or are absent more than 180 days for other reasons.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)