



March 4, 2024

[Sent Via Electronic Mail]

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
State Capitol Room 9
Juneau AK, 99801

Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov

Representative Rebecca Himschoot
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov

Re: Support for House Bill No. 201 and Senate Bill No. 171

Dear Representative Himschoot and Senator Bjorkman:

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I write in support of HB 201 and SB 171, "An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date."

The essence of this legislation is to revise the residency requirements for obtaining hunting, trapping, and sport fishing licenses in Alaska. Our traditional subsistence ways of life face unprecedented threats: overfishing, closed fisheries, diminishing wildlife populations, and the impacts of climate change. Against this backdrop, HB 201 and SB 171 are essential legislative measures to protect our state's resources. By refining the criteria for residency, like that of the Permanent Fund Dividend, HB 201 and SB 171, ensures that only bona fide residents of Alaska can receive a resident hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license. Given these considerations, AFN strongly supports HB 201 and SB 171.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Julie Kitka
President



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)

HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION No. 24-02-1090

Adopted

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly Supporting the
Passage of House Bill 201: An Act Changing the Residency
Requirements for Hunting, Trapping and Sport Fishing Privileges.**

WHEREAS, Alaska residents rely on the resources of the State consistent with the Constitutional promise that "fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use"; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Haines Borough rely heavily on the fish, wildlife and the waters of the area for subsistence, personal and commercial uses; and

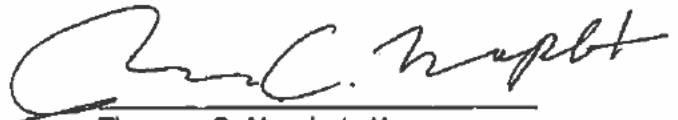
WHEREAS, the existing definition of residency for the purpose of obtaining a hunting, trapping or sport fishing license is broad and difficult to enforce due to the low threshold for residency; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans who invest in their communities by maintaining residency most of the year should reap the benefit of access to fish and game resources; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 201 aligns the residency requirements for fishing, hunting and trapping with the permanent fund dividend eligibility requirements and will help protect the opportunities for harvest for residents, while still allowing access for those who cannot or do not meet the residency requirements,


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAINES BOROUGH ASSEMBLY supports the passage of House Bill 201 by the Alaska State Legislature.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 13th day of February, 2024.



Thomas C. Morphet, Mayor

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, MMC, Borough Clerk



CITY OF EDNA BAY

1 Edna Bay Rd. Edna Bay, Alaska 99901-9803

Ph# (907) 594-6300

Email: mayor@cityofednabay.org

Re: Support for HB201

Dear Mr. Whitehead,

Your request for a letter of support for HB201 was on the agenda for our city council meeting in February.

Though most agreed that out of state visitors appear to be abusing the local resources, discussion around the language and principal amendment proposed by the bill resulted in some concerns that there may be unintended consequences from tying local license application requirements to the stringent level of the PFD.

It was agreed our letter of support should note that Edna Bay is in favor of Proposal 235 to improve the definition of domicile, which many felt was too broad. And that a six month annual residency requirement similar to the PFD be used, but the overall requirements that go along with the PFD not be added. Many felt it would inadvertently affect local residents.

A vote was taken narrowly in favor of sending a letter stating our agreement to the premise for HB201 with the noted concerns included. So please consider this our letter of support.

Sincerely,

Tyler M. Poelstra, Mayor



Organized Village of Kasaan

907.542.2230

102 Copper Crescent Drive Kasaan, Alaska 99950

P.O. Box KXA 26 Kasaan, Alaska 99950

March 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Mike Jones, and I am the Tribal President of the Organized Village of Kasaan and I am writing in support of SB 171 for the following reasons.

Seasonal residents. They have a tendency to be pirate/illegal charter operators either occasionally or regularly.

Unguided charter boats have no cap/limit.

Guided/legal charter operators only have the Charter Halibut Permit as a means to limit entry, but it is not limited entry to be able to guide for everything but halibut.

There is no fee for the legal charters/no restrictions/requirements. The charter industry doesn't pay back into local communities other than through sales tax so if operators live outside the sales tax area, they are able to circumvent nearly all contributions to cities/hatcheries/state. There are no fish processing fees, no state fees, no hatchery fees etc.

This is far different than commercial fisheries so there is inequality.

To the operators that live inside sales tax areas and pay sales tax, this is a huge expense to the operators and large fees are paid to the communities in which they live. Many communities don't have a sales tax cap so the operators get hit very hard, i.e. 6.5% of the gross so ONE client can cost \$227.50 if the trip costs \$3500. Oftentimes the amounts paid to the communities is much larger than many realize while others pay \$0 b/c they live outside the sales tax area. Again, there is inequality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Jones".

Michael Jones
Tribal Council President

From: [Allen Edsall](#)
To: [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#)
Subject: Fwd: correction SB 171
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 7:09:32 AM

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From: Allen Edsall
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 7:04:57 AM
To: Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB171

Hello

My name is Allen Edsall and a resident of Alaska full time for 43 years. I have a degree in Aquaculture . I have worked for 20 as an employee for a nonprofit aquaculture company raising literally millions of salmon for the Alaskan commercial fishing industry and common property harvest to include sport and subsistence. I am also a seated member of the Klawock Advisory committee for fish and game.

The community consensus is it's unfair to year around residents that depend on fish and wildlife harvests to supplement their diets as well to the Alaskan commercial fishers who depend on these fish for a living. This as opposed to vacationers posing as sportsmen involved in potential unlicensed for profit ventures. These vacationers are induced by loopholes and inconsistencies on determining what is considered residency. Please see link on Montana hunting/fishing requirements for Residents vs non resident status.

<https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply/residencyinfo>

I know of people who show up in our community on a yearly basis for a month or two that fish every day regardless of weather conditions rotating different groups, yet this activity has been ongoing for years.

For the record I support SB 171 as reasonable means of addressing this issue as well as the other valid concerns on this matter from Alaskan constituents.

Thank You,
Allen Edsall

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From: [Roberto Medina](#)
To: [Sen. Jesse Bjorkman](#)
Subject: Support of hB171
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 7:34:47 AM

My name is Roberto Medina and I am a lifelong local of Prince of Wales island ,specifically, Klawock. I am also the only Alaskan native Sportfishing business owner on the island. I support your bill for the same qualifications for in state license as the PFD. Currently lodge ownership is 80% out of state with seasonal guides being even higher. They have access to the fish and fish on their days off, and retain more than their annual limit of king salmon. In addition I'd like to recommend an E license, similar to how guides have an elogbook, it is common practice for a seasonal fisherman, (vacation home owners) to catch their annual limit , 3 kings, leave state, and return and get a new paper license with a clean slate or just going any sporting goods store and say you lost your license and get a new one, and with it an additional annual limit. If this was an elicense and submitted similar to guide logbooks this would clear up this loophole that is exercised by most seasonal fisherman/ vacation home owners.

I am a lifelong resident of Prince of wales and a member of the Tlingit and Haida tribes, I am a lifelong resident of the Tlingit village Klawock. I strongly support the bill, I have watched my homelands become decimated due to seasonal visitors with summer homes, many of which are friends, however I need to voice my heartbreak watching them leave with upwards of 20, 50 pound fish boxes at summers end. Most of these homes are out of city limits therefore do not pay taxes, they don't contribute to the local economy as most of them barge up their summer supply from the lower 48. Bragging on social media about the size of the their shipping containers of goods and the low price they received and bragging again how big their containers are going back with our fish. I hope this statement finds you well. I am also a local charter fishing operator, many of my colleagues are the biggest offenders. But I cannot watch my homeland be raped anymore, action must be taken.

Below is a recent post by a seasonal home owner whom is a friend however is a prime example of what I am talking about. This post was made after my first email of support to this bill. These people are wealthy retired folks with \$300,000 boats and million dollar homes, they take their friends and family and don't abide by the laws of the land. Their financial class buys them immunity from the laws of the land, whether directly or indirectly.

7:26 ↵



Rich Adams



Posts

Photos

Just finished our yearly shopping at Costco on our way up to Alaska. Three carts, no booze, but lots of meat. How much did we spend? Whoever gets closest gets a couple of cans of smoked salmon shipped to them in August or early September.



Testimony addressing SB 171 to Senate Resources Committee Chair Senator Chip Bishop (Senator.Chip.Bishop@akleg.gov) also cc bill sponsor Senator Jessie Bjorkman (Senator.Jessie.Borkman@akleg.gov)

I apologize for not paying attention to SB 171 sooner but like my friends. I thought we knew the intent of the bill and who the bill would affect. We wrongly assumed that it would not affect an 82 year old, a 42 year Alaska resident, a 22 year PID fishing license holder, a retired educator living in his Alaska retirement home, paying Alaska property taxes, with Alaska driver license, vehicle license, boat license, year round boat slip and avid outdoor person. However, after reading the sponsor statement, I realize that I may very well be in the sights of these bills probably more so because of my age. Let me explain:

1. As an 82 year old staying in Alaska during the winter becomes less appealing. (still love my summers here)

2. Traveling back into rural Alaska during the winter to meet the Permanent Fund requirements is always an adventure and sometimes even impossible.
3. It seems each year there are more trips to a doctor down south. I know the Permanent Fund allows for medical visits, but they would only come into play if you were out of state more than 180 days and nearly 140 of those days were medically approved by Permanent Fund staff.

4. Not being a very tec literate person filling out the long Permanent Fund forms, crossing all the Ts and dotting all the Is, is a frustration I appreciate less every year. No doubt there will be a time when it will be easier to let the state keep the money. (Would that mean I would automatically lose my fishing license?)

I don't believe these bills are intended to catch Alaska's senior citizens but I do believe, if not amended, it will do that. It would be my hope that the bill would be amended to protect long time Alaska senior citizens by maybe using AGE, PID LICENSE, or YEARS IN THE STATE in some form as an amendment.

I appreciate your consideration to this request.

Offered by,

Harry Rogers

Petersburg, Alaska



House Senate Bill HB201/SB171
Additional Comments
3/3/24

Dear Senate Resource Committee,

These are additional comments to our 2/2/24 letter. I hear repeated arguments that there is a problem (primarily in Southeast Alaska) with Non-Residents hunting and fishing as Alaska Residents, and this Bill intends to stop that practice. This is not true; Alaska's Residency law is clear (AS 16.05.425). Bill 201/171 targets bonified Alaska residents and wishes to stop them from hunting and fishing as residents. It is false to claim the Bill is addressing "Non-Resident" use of the resource.

The proponents of this Bill simply don't like that all legal Alaska Residents have equal access to the resource. It is relatively rare that a Non-Resident buys a Resident hunting and fishing license and attempts to hunt and fish as a Resident. After having hunted and fished throughout Southeast Alaska for more than 30 years I have not seen the perceived problem.

I must wonder if the motivation behind Bill 201/171 is to reduce the number of Resident Fish and Game users in favor of Commercial or Local users. Even if there was some evidence to support a perceived problem, it would be primarily a Southeast Alaska fishing issue. Yet, this Bill will impact the hunting and fishing rights of Alaska Residents Statewide. It's like bringing a bomb to a fist fight, the collateral damage is just too high.

Bill 201/171 is not about a resource issue it's about which Residents get to access that resource. The Alaska Board of Game is charged with controlling the use, allocation, and harvest levels of Fish and Game. It does so through licensing, permits, regulations, and in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (BOG). The proponents of this Bill would be better served addressing their perceived localized issue with the BOG, who is responsible for managing Alaska's Resource.

Thank you,
Ken and Anna Vorisek



From: [Tim O'CONNOR](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: SB-171
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 11:57:55 AM

I am a 25 year resident of Alaska, Logger, commercial fishermen, fire chief, EMT1, past Mayor of Craig on PRINCE OF WALES IS. We have seen the abuse of our wildlife resources and subsistence food sources by non-resident so called sports men over the years . It is time to put a end to the practice of non-residents who claim to be resident. This leads to over harvest of our resources and depleted subsistence opportunities. SB-171 WOULD look to fix this problem and stop the abuse of the system. Thanks for the opportunity to address this issue.
Tim O'Connor, Craig Ak.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22+ 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Anne Rittgers

From: Senate Resources
Subject: RE: SB171/HR201

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

From: Lewis Hiatt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 6:57 AM
To: kurtpowguide@gmail.com; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot <Rep.Rebecca.Himschoot@akleg.gov>; Sen. Bert Stedman <Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Scott Kawasaki <Sen.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Sen. James Kaufman <Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB171/HR201

Alaska Senators/Representatives,

I am a forty plus year resident of Hollis, Alaska and am writing in support of SB171/HR201. These bills address a huge loophole in Alaska's residency requirements. The summer-pseudo-Alaska resident wannabes deprive our state of a very large amount of license fee revenue as well as deplete resources set aside for actual Alaska residents. These two month summer residents know they are skirting the requirements but also know that the current definition is so ambiguous enforcement is impossible.

I have a good friend in Juneau (30 year resident) who also owns a residence on POW Island. He would like nothing more than to take advantage of our generous fish and game bag limits but DOES NOT because he understands his true residence is Juneau and feels this would be WRONG.

Please support this long overdue resident requirement reform.

Thank You,
Lewis Hiatt

Sent from my iPad

March 1, 2024

I, Sara Yockey, am submitting my written testimony in support of SB 171 to protect the rights of full time Alaskan residents and our resources many Alaskans depend on to feed their families. I am a lifelong resident of Prince of Wales Island (POW), my family first arrived on POW in 1959. When my grandparents were one of the first families to settle in Hollis and then moving to Thorne Bay. My husband is also a lifelong resident of POW residing in Coffman Cove. Both of our families relied heavily on venison, fish, shellfish and other subsistence foods to feed their families growing up.

My husband and I both completed our high school education in Klawock and Craig and moved back to Coffman Cove in 2004 with our two sons and have lived here since. We have raised our children the way we were raised and to live from the land.

In recent years there has been a heavy incline of individuals claiming residency in order to obtain the rights of those who truly reside in Alaska year-round. By claiming Alaska residency allows those individuals to purchase hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses as residents although they only reside here in the months where harvesting is robust, typically June through October. Most bring group after group of “friends and family” who leave with numerous fish boxes full of resources we all depend on to subsist through the tough winter months when travel to grocery stores or ordering groceries via float plane is difficult due to weather and cost. Then they depart with a truckload of freezers full of our resources for themselves. These people are mostly people who purchase vacation homes here on POW and retreat to the lower 48 when the weather and harvesting becomes adverse to their liking.

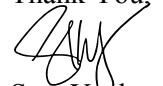
As a full time Alaskan resident, I am sickened by the number of people who are allowed to break the laws or slip through the cracks claiming to be an Alaska resident when they are only in our State four to five months out of the year. These people are also not contributing to our local economies. They typically bring all of their groceries, fuel and other goods with them, visiting the local restaurant or bar is their only contribution to our communities.

In the lower 48 the word “subsistence” can have so many different definitions, going to the grocery store, going to a restaurant, etc. Here in Alaska, specifically for my family, on POW the word subsistence has a whole different meaning. Many of us don’t have the means to go to the grocery store or out to eat in a variety of restaurants, if it is due to weather or cost. Subsistence to us full time Alaskan residents means we hustle through the harvest season to fill our freezers and put up as much local food as we can to feed our families throughout the winter months with hopes of making it to the next harvest season to start again.

When I was young, the resources were plentiful, it was and is always work, but today and for the past several years it is becoming more and more difficult to harvest the foods we are used to harvesting. I believe this is due to the incline in people with vacation homes in Alaska, claiming residency, and the allowance to obtain resident rights to our resources.

I believe the passage of SB 171 will be a positive action for our legislature in doing what they are in their positions to do, protect the rights of true, full time Alaskan residents, our resources we depend, and prevent the further decline of said resources. I respectfully ask you listen to the Citizens of Alaska and what so many are advocating for by showing our support and speaking for the passage of SB 171.

Thank You,



Sara Yockey

From: [Ellen Hannan](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Matt Claman](#); [Sen. Forrest Dunbar](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. James Kaufman](#); [Sen. Scott Kawasaki](#); [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#); [Sen. Kelly Merrick](#); [Sen. Robert Myers](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Mike Shower](#); [Sen. Bert Stedman](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Sen. Løki Tobin](#); [Sen. Bill Wielechowski](#); [Sen. David Wilson](#)
Subject: Support of SB171
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 8:20:40 PM

Dear Senators,

Please support SB 171 as originally written.

This bill will rectify the inequalities of the current legal definition of a "resident" as applied to Alaska Fish and Game licenses. By using the legal definition of a resident that qualifies for a Permanent Fund Dividend, confusion in the legal system will be clarified, prioritizing our resources for Alaska's true residents, Alaska has an increasing population of seasonal residents who come to Alaska for all or part of fishing and or hunting season, to take advantage of the resources of Alaska. They reside most of the year in another state or country, while the majority have never been domiciled here for twelve consecutive months.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game is missing out financially from these seasonal residents and the people who live here year round, are missing out on available resources. Just like the Permanent Fund Dividend is wealth sharing for Alaska's year round residents, we need to make sure our available fish and game resources are shared appropriately as well.

The increased revenue from more non-resident sales will benefit the State at a much needed time.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hannan

Lifelong Alaskan

Resident of Craig

Chair of the Craig Fish & Game Advisory Council

March 9, 2024

My Name is Raymond Douville. I was born on Prince of Wales Island-Craig, Alaska, and have lived here my entire life. I am a commercial fisherman and a subsistence user who depends on the local resources.

I support SB171 because I am fed-up with the "Fake Alaska Residents" taking advantage of the resources in a place where I live.

These are resources that my family and I depend on for food and to make a living.

Every Spring/Summer they show up, move into their "summer homes", prep their boats and begin fishing shortly after. And then, by late Summer/early Fall, they're gone. During their time here, they fish almost daily, if not daily.

These "Fake Alaska Residents", and many of their friends who do not live here, take full advantage of our already stressed fishing resources. They harvest under resident/rural subsistence user regulations, then ship hundreds of pounds of the fish south to their real homes in the lower 48.


Much of what is going on with the "Fake Alaska Resident" harvest is unaccounted for and it is totally unsustainable. The sportfish harvest is growing at an unsustainable rate, and this is a big part of the reason why.

My hope is that if SB171 is passed, it will be effective in closing loopholes that are being taken advantage of by "Fake Alaska Residents".

And

It will help in preserving our local fishing resources for "Real Alaska Residents".

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Douville', written in a cursive style.

Raymond Douville

From: [joe holder](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Subject: SB171 input
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 5:07:29 PM

Members of Senate Resources Committee,

I write to present my case as a fifty year Alaskan regarding SB171.

1. I moved to Alaska March 1, 1974 (four months prior to start of the Pipeline).
2. I am 75 years old and retired.
3. I spent six and half months of the last twelve months physically in Alaska.
4. I have filed my federal income taxes in Alaska for fifty years.
5. I have voted in Alaska for fifty years.
6. I have maintained a domicile in Alaska for fifty years.
7. I have not collected the PFD for a long time as I come and go as I wish, and do not need the PFD, I am currently spending the month of March in a rented house in Arizona.
8. I have in the last ten years spent an average of five months a year in Alaska.
9. I have spent time in the last ten years in Alaska, Arizona, California, Montana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, New Zealand and Australia.
10. I have not taken up residence anywhere but Alaska in fifty years.
11. I testified in person at a Wrangell Borough meeting February 13, 2024. (An example of a participating resident)
12. I have no where else to hunt or fish as a resident.
13. I do not qualify as a resident in any other state.
14. I qualified as a resident with fish and game when they questioned my residency in December of 2013. This a result of a draw hunt application and the fact I had not received a PFD in that year.

In summary the fish and game has the resources to electronically, at very little expense contact everyone that fished or hunted as a resident and did not receive a PFD. Then have those people send in the documentation required such as mortgages, leases, utility bills, insurance documents etc. Thus cleaning up the rolls of resident fishers and hunters. Why punish an old retired guy such as myself.

Sincerely, Joe Holden

[REDACTED]
Wrangell, Ak 99929
[REDACTED]

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
120 4th Street, Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: Letter of Support for SB 171 – aligning the residency requirements for sport hunting, fishing, and trapping with the Permanent Fund Dividend eligibility requirements

Dear Senator Bjorkman and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

Thank you for your service on behalf of Alaska's public resources. We appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments on SB 171, which would align the residency requirements for sport hunting, fishing, and trapping with the Permanent Fund Dividend eligibility requirements.

We are year-round Alaska residents who rely on our fish and wildlife resources for subsistence, sport, and commercial uses. Elijah was raised on Prince of Wales Island and has lived there most of his life. As a full-time resident of Klawock, he hunts, fishes, and traps to provide food for our family and community, where healthy store-bought food is expensive and sometimes limited. Elijah has earned a living as a charter fishing captain for nearly 20 years and has seen local fisheries change dramatically during that time, including decreased abundance of and increased competition for king salmon and halibut.

Jen works on natural resource policy issues, with an emphasis on the conservation of Alaska's wildlife. As keystone species like salmon and caribou decline across the state, we are both concerned about the impacts to Alaskans, particularly rural residents. We have lived for many years in coastal communities with relatively high rates of seasonal residents, and we have witnessed the outsized negative impacts that even a small number of dishonest individuals can have on diminishing fish and game resources.

One of the most straightforward solutions for avoiding user conflicts is to ensure that harvest limits allowed for Alaska residents are being utilized *only* by residents. We agree with the proponents of SB 171 that the current definition of residency is too broad and difficult to enforce. This legislation addresses those challenges while creating no additional barriers to participation for non-residents.

We value the role that non-resident hunters and anglers play in Alaska's outdoor recreation economy and in funding our state's fish and wildlife research and management. We welcome non-resident participation in Alaska's hunting and fishing traditions where adequate opportunities exist, while ensuring that resident allocation is reserved for Alaskans who meet the PFD eligibility requirements.

While public testimony has identified some opportunities to potentially refine this legislation—i.e., accommodating Alaska residents who work out of state more than 180 days per year but don't receive residency benefits elsewhere—we applaud this constituent-driven effort to respond to community concerns and provide law enforcement officials with more tools for safeguarding our public resources.

We respectfully urge the passage of SB 171 and appreciate your commitment to the conservation of Alaska's public fish and wildlife resources.

Respectfully,

Elijah Winrod and Jen Leahy
Klawock, AK