



Representatives Eric Feige and Dan Saddler  
Alaska State House  
Juneau, AK 99801

February 24, 2014

Dear Representatives Feige and Saddler:

Thank you for chairing the committee that is reviewing HB 161 regarding big game auctions and raffles. This is a letter in support of that bill. I currently serve as the president of the Devils Thumb Archers, a non-profit organization in Petersburg, Alaska. You've heard previous testimony about this bill from some large national organizations; in contrast, Devils Thumb Archers membership hovers between 30-40 individuals and their families, and we are all Alaskans. Most members are from Petersburg, but we do have members from Wrangell, Edna Bay and Prince of Wales Island.

The Devils Thumb Archers have applied for and received an elk tag from the Etolin Island herd to be used as a fund raiser for over 10 years under present state law. The proceeds from the tag represent the main annual income for our organization. Funds generated from the tag are used to purchase youth bows and arrows, targets, and trail construction and maintenance materials. Funds raised with this tag are generally in the \$1000 to \$2000 range per year. I support HB 161 because it retains the opportunity for up to 4 Etolin elk tags to be donated to a non profit, and allows the non profit to keep 100% of the proceeds from the auction or raffle.

Though our organization is small it does some big things. Our members include ADF&G hunter safety volunteer instructors for both firearms and archery certification. The bowhunter certification field test takes place at our field facility. Annually, our members guide visitors along the 1 mile long boardwalk and provide basic archery instruction using equipment purchased with funds from this tag. Boy scouts, girl scouts, elementary, middle and high school students visit our range and course annually, and are guided and instructed by members in the basics of archery. After safety, educating visitors in the outdoor tradition of archery is the primary objective of our volunteers when guiding these groups.

During the 10+ years that our organization has been raffling the elk tag, each year the tag has been awarded to an Alaskan resident. We don't exclude non-residents from the raffle, and we have had inquiries about the tag from as far away as Texas and Pennsylvania and New York, but our primary sponsors have been Alaskans. Winners of the tag have come from Ketchikan, Prince of Wales Island, Edna Bay, Wrangell, Petersburg, Kupreanof and Fairbanks.

I support HB 161 regarding the opportunities for auctions and raffles and Etolin Island elk. I also support HB 161 because it provides a way to fund small non-profit organizations that are interested in outdoor traditions, conservation and wildlife.

If there are any questions, or if there is anything I can do to help in the passage of this bill please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan McMahon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan McMahon  
Devils Thumb Archers, President  
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