

From: Sandie
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 12:45 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Senate resource committee HB 161 hearing

Dear Honorable Senator Giessel,

I am writing in regards to the senate resources committee hearing on HB 161. At first look at this bill I was supportive of it, however, after talking to an expert in wildlife biology and state wildlife management politics I became concerned. This bill allows the state to donate several hunting permits to be auctioned off by a private organization. The state currently keeps about 90% of these profits and the other ten percent to to the organization to cover the auction costs.

Because of the Pittman/Robertson act, the 11% excise tax on firearms is put into a federal fund that is given to states based on the amount of money that is spent on conservation efforts. In effect the federal govt matches every state spent dollar with three dollars from this fund money generated by gun sales. This bill gives more money to the private organizations that auction off the permits but regulates how they can spend it. This in effect increases the size of the government by using a private entity to do the work that the government wants done. If this money was instead kept by the state (as it currently is in all permit auctions) it is matched by the funds out of the tax pool generated by the tax on gun sales. I believe this bill should be amended to allow the organizations to keep 10% of the auction profits and allow them to use the money (10% of auction profit) as they see fit.

Sincerely,
Sandie Gilliland