



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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January 27, 2018

To: Representative Dan Saddler

Re: HB 260 – Fish & Game Licenses – Electronic Form

Dear Representative Saddler,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) **supports** HB 260A as currently worded to allow for the possession of a hunting/fishing/trapping license in an electronic format to serve as legal proof of licensure.

We currently allow verification of car insurance by law enforcement authorities in electronic format on a cell phone. There is no reason we can't do the same with a fishing/hunting/trapping license.

With RHAK membership we give out a hunting license "baggie," similar to what ADFG has given out in the past, to protect a hunting license from water. It's not uncommon for a hunter to somehow get a license wet and obscure the information on the license.

These days most hunters and anglers carry their cell phone with them in the field, and the ability to also "carry" a hunting license in digital format on a cell phone would provide a redundant benefit (forgot license, license was lost, got wet etc) in complying with carrying a license when hunting or fishing.

There may be concerns that an electronic format doesn't allow a duck stamp or salmon stamp to be affixed, as with a paper license. Hunters would still have to carry paper harvest tickets and permits.

Currently one can apply online for a hunt/fish/trap license, pay online and then print out a copy of the license at home. Essentially this is already an electronic copy that could be stored on a phone, just like car insurance verification, at no cost to the state. It makes sense to allow that electronic copy to serve as proof of licensure just like the paper copy.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska