

*Dear Senator*

*SB 219 (“Transfer Personal Use Cabin Permits”), currently before the Alaska legislature, addresses an issue that has great importance to our family. My parents, Wilbur Bruce “Buck” and Charlene Stewart, built a cabin in Beluga, Alaska in 1974. It is identified as site number ADL 220669, or LR2 – Lewis River #2. Our use permit is issued to four names: mine (Shirley Stewart Winther), my sister’s (Debbie Stewart Smith), my brother’s (Jim Stewart), and my mother’s (Charlene Stewart). My mother is in her eighties; we are in our fifties and sixties. Under current rules, we are not allowed to add names to the permit or own the property. When I pass away, the cabin is to be destroyed or put under state ownership. I would like your help in supporting the passage of SB 219 so we can add the name of my niece, Stephanie Stewart Niemeyer, to the state permit or alternatively, to support legislation to allow personal ownership of the land on which the cabin sits.*

*My parents were pilots, and I spent much of my childhood flying back and forth from Anchorage to this cabin in my parents’ Cessna 182. I became a pilot myself and later, when I married Rick Winther, we continued the tradition of flying to the cabin for family gatherings. We enjoyed picking fiddlehead ferns, fishing, gathering coal, and of course, duck hunting. Over the years, we devoted a lot of time, money and effort to upgrading the cabin. My niece Stephanie grew up with many of the same traditions that my brother and sister and I did, all centered around the cabin. Stephanie is now married to an F-22 pilot in the Air Force, and she would like to carry these traditions into the future.*

*Our family pays recurring fees for our cabin, and our permit is in effect through June 30, 2027. We understand that owners who do not regularly visit their cabins and maintain the aesthetics of the property are subject to having their cabins torn down or put under state ownership. We are in full agreement with this policy. But for those of us who maintain and upgrade our personal use cabins, we would like to keep them in our families.*

*Please let us know if you have questions we can answer and/or if you would like to set up a meeting at your convenience.*

*Thank you so much for looking into this issue for us. We support SB 219 to allow adding family members to current permits.*

*Kind regards,*

***Shirley D. Winther***

*Rick and Shirley Winther & Charlene Stewart  
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