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SB219

1 message

Sandy Bell <sandybell9537@gmail.com>
To: sres@akleg.gov

Thu, Mar 17, 2022 at 10:49 AM

To: Senate Resources Committee
Re: SB 219 - Duck Cabin Permit/Greg Bell

As a longtime resident of the Soldotna area since 1960, I have a lot of appreciation for my Mom and Dad as they pursued their dream to move from Oregon the raise their family in the Alaskan Wilderness.

As a young man with his pilot license, my dad soon became a registered hunting and fishing guide. After purchasing a commercial fishing site at Silver Salmon Creek on the west side of the Cook Inlet, he flew his wife and his three boys to the fishing camp where they lived and worked remotely for the summers during the 60's.

As I reflect, I remember the tough and the good times. Growing up as a close family provided memories that are unexplainably wonderful.

Jumping ahead to the late 70's or the early 80's, my father had purchased a small cabin from a friend on the west side to Cook Inlet along side Rig River.

At some time the State of Alaska DNR, required a permit for use of the cabin. My dad obtained the permit for the Duck Cabin and put Greg Bell's name on it as he was the youngest child.

In 1984, our family started High Adventure Air Charter Guides & Outfitters which included being a part 135 air charter service.

In 1987, dad passed away suddenly with cancer. My mom, Greg and I stepped up together to continue the business. On July 31, 2020, a pilot with no medical license to operate, flew into my brothers' plane and killed Greg and all the passengers aboard as to no fault of his own.

With the outpouring of support from our employees, friends, family, local community and the past 37 years ~~years~~ of guests and clients we powered into the 2021 summer season.

Our 2021 season was more than busy, but by the middle of September, when we begin to wrap up our summer, things just weren't the same without my brother and partner for a lifetime. "The fun was gone". This was hard enough to go through and then to find that my sister-in-law received a letter from the State of Alaska DNR, which notified her that the Duck Cabin Permit would expire and would no longer be part of the family. The letter stated that when the permit holder dies, the cabin is to be removed. ~~one person could have been on the permit, unfortunately we have not yet been able to locate the original permit.~~ *THE LETTER ALSO STATED*

The duck cabin has not only given us memories but extended a connection to remote Alaska. I've had the joy of watching my kids, grandkids, brothers, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends enjoying the use of this cabin in a remote setting. Though only a short flight from town, and maybe only a day or two (and leaving electronics behind) it's been great to watch this younger generation experience that part of Alaska that I was privileged to enjoy as a kid. *4 + 4 + 1 = 9*

The opportunity of what my parents gave us is the same dream we want to carry on for the 5 generations of family that surround us today. Greg was survived by his son Eric. The cabin has been a place that he can carry the memories of his dad, but also a place that he could still go to. In my opinion, the Duck cabin is a top priority of our kids and the way of life.

Under the circumstances, taking this cabin from us doesn't seem right. I am asking for your help. Please allow us the opportunity to renew the permit and continue to be blessed through ~~the~~ remote Alaska in raising our families.

Mark Bell

