

10 April,2023

SB 78 HUNT/FISH AND TRAP LICENSE FOR NONRESIDENT STUDENT

Good day Co Chairs Bishop, Giessel and Resources Committee members.

I support SB 78 and would ask you to also support the bill and move it to the next committee.

The Bill asks to allow nonresident postsecondary students who are enrolled in an institution described under AS 14.43.830(a).

These qualified non-resident students have invested their time and finances in our state education systems. I believe allowing these students to participate in hunting, trapping and fishing at a resident fee would benefit the student and the state.

I know attending higher education can be stressful. Recent studies have shown especially since Covid, that participating in outdoor activists are very beneficial to one's physical and mental health.

Also, the demographics of these students attending postsecondary education are the persons that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have shown through studies, that never participated in hunting, trapping or fishing, or did, but currently are not due to their residential status in a different state. That they do not want to jeopardize.

Current studies shown by ADF&G that people participating in hunting, trapping and fishing are in decline. The Department is currently active with a nation-wide program called the 3 R's. Recruit, Retain and Reactivate.

Recruit, offering classes such as Becoming and Outdoors Woman, Hunter Information Training, Camp Education and ecology, and Rod Loaners, to name a few. These classes are available for people who are interested in learning about hunting, trapping, and fishing but may have never participated in these opportunities.

Retaining, Department promotes hunting, trapping and fishing with many newsletters, different specialized educational classes, encouraging people to participate in the Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Board of Fish and the Board of Game to stay active.

Reactivate, these are people who may have grown up in a household where they did do some hunting, fishing, or trapping, but due to their educational demands, or moved away from the family, they currently do not participate in these outdoor opportunities. There are opportunities at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to take classes like Huntology. This class is for students who may have never hunted or have not hunted for many years. Part of the class discussion is the philosophy of hunting.

Lastly, with more people participating and buying licenses, fewer general funds are needed for fish and wildlife management.

Please support

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I am currently a member of the Board of Game. These are my own views and I do not represent any views of the Board Game on SB 78