

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

Angoon, Craig, Edna Bay, Elfin Cove, Hollis, Hoonah, Hydaburg, Kake, Kasaan, Klawock, Kupreanof, Naukati, Pelican, Petersburg, Port Alexander, Point Baker, Port Protection, Sitka, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay & Yakutat

## *Session*

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## HOUSE BILL 201

### RESIDENCY REQ: HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING

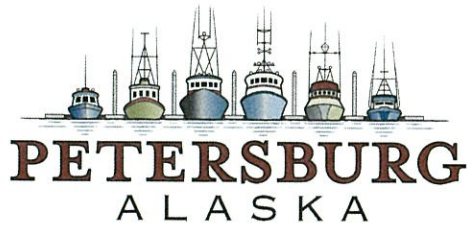
Version U

“An Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date.”

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT INDEX

(Updated 1.23.24)

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8. Craig Tribal Association, Craig, AK
9. Joseph Johnson, Klawock, AK
10. City of Craig, Craig, AK
11. Resident Hunters of Alaska



December 18, 2023

Dear Legislators of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Alaska Legislature,

The Petersburg Borough Assembly supports House Bill 201, sponsored by Representatives Himschoot and Hannan, which will change the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges to align with the requirements to receive a Permanent Fund Dividend (AS 43.23).

Passage of HB 201 will benefit all Alaskans by:

- 1) limiting the amount of time and reasons one can be absent from the state and still qualify for a resident license;
- 2) making residency requirements easier to enforce; and
- 3) protecting subsistence resources for year-round Alaska residents.

The statute changes proposed in HB 201 will ensure that Alaskans who qualify for a resident hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license are in fact year-round residents of Alaska who deserve the increased bag limits that are the privilege of state residents.

We urge the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature to pass HB 201 into Alaska law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Jensen", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Jensen  
Mayor



Silverthorn Charters, Inc.

[REDACTED]  
Thorne Bay, AK 99919  
[REDACTED]

December 10, 2023

RE: Alaska HB201 (Residency Req: Hunting, Trapping, Fishing)

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to our support of HB201. Silverthorn Charters, Inc. was started in 2016 and provides a charter fishing service based out of Thorne Bay AK.

We support this bill for the following reasons:

- Eliminate seasonal visitors with secondary homes from falsely claiming residency; it will improve enforcement and deter criminal activity.
- Clearly identify definition of State of Alaska resident vs non-resident for purpose of fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses; it will generate additional revenue for the State of Alaska and ADFG.
- It will improve our lives and better protect our subsistence resources for those who need them most.

We would like to be a voice of support of and urge you to vote yes on HB201!

Thank you!

Jim & Shannon Silverthorn  
Silverthorn Charters, Inc., Owners

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Silverthorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Date:** December 27, 2023

**To:** The State of Alaska Legislature and Resources Committee  
Representative, Rebecca Himschoot  
Representative, Sara Hannan

**From:** Glen Holt

at-large newly elected member of the East POW Island Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Lived in Alaska full time 41 years. Full-time current resident and homeowner in Thorne Bay, Alaska.

[REDACTED]

Thorne Bay, AK 99919

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Legislature and all Committees:

I support legislation proposed in ***HB 201 Resident Requirements for Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Licenses*** as currently amended. Please pass this important legislation. It will protect the rights of real residents and enhance revenues to ADF&G as they manage our fish and game resources for everyone.

People who cannot qualify to receive the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Check should not be allowed to purchase resident licenses. Our lifestyle is the reason we remain residents of this beautiful state.

Having a seasonal domicile or address should not qualify anyone for residency.

Thank you for your consideration.

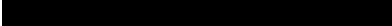
Sincerely,

Glen Holt

# Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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*Beau Dale, Chair*

  
*Ketchikan, Alaska*

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January, 5 2024

Alaska State Legislators,

The Ketchikan Advisory Committee supports HB 201

Thank you,

Ketchikan Advisory Committee

December 5, 2023

Alaska State Legislators,

The ADFG Craig Advisory Committee is pleased to offer its unanimous SUPPORT for House Bill 201.

The Craig AC is a diverse group of 14 members from the Craig, AK area.

Below, we have listed a few of the many reasons we support HB201.

-It will improve our lives and better protect our subsistence resources for those who need them most.

-It will generate additional revenue for the state and ADFG.

-It will improve enforcement and deter criminal activity.

-It will not change the requirements for a bonafide, year round, Alaskan resident to obtain a sport fishing, hunting or trapping license.

We urge you to vote YES on HB201.

Thank you,

The ADFG Craig Advisory Committee

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SUPPORTING  
HOUSE BILL (HB) 201: AN ACT CHANGING THE RESIDENCY  
REQUIREMENTS FOR HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND SPORT FISHING PRIVILEGES**

**WHEREAS**, HB 201 aligns requirements for an individual to receive a resident hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license with the requirement to receive a Permanent Fund Dividend (AS 43.23); and

**WHEREAS**, passage of HB 201 will limit the amount of time and reasons one can be absent from the state and still qualify for a resident license while at the same time making residency requirements easier to enforce; and


**WHEREAS**, HB 201 ensures that Alaskans who qualify for a resident hunting, trapping, or sportfishing license are in fact year-round residents of Alaska who deserve the increased bag limits and reduced costs that are the privilege of state residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka supports the passage of House Bill 201 by the Alaska State Legislature.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Mosher, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading: 1/9/24

Sponsor: Administrator

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Joseph Johnson-Klawock, AK  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024 10:23:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Rep. Himschoot and Bjorkman,  
Please use the following email from me anytime/anywhere.

Also attached is Joseph Johnson's statement who has given his permission to you as well.

Joseph Johnson is a year round resident of Klawock, AK. He works for the AK DOT. The person he is writing about claims his boat in Klawock, Alaska as his domicile for both he and his wife. His boat slip is just past mine.

I used to live full time in Sitka from 2004-2008, came to Craig/Klawock in 2006 and moved from Sitka in 2008. Since I've been in Klawock, the person mentioned above hasn't spent more than one month/year in AK.

There is also a campground/resort in Klawock that caters to seasonal residents. Every day, there's normally a dozen or so of these seasonal residents that fish from the resorts private dock and whack and stack as much as possible.

Yet another longtime seasonal resident that lives in Craig, AK during the summer fishes several days a week with different "friends".

He shipped 854lbs. of frozen fish via Alaska Marine Lines to his real residence in the lower 48 just two summers ago and routinely takes a steady stream of "friends" every summer for years.

In Coffman Cove, 102 of the 197 residents are seasonal residents, several of them are illegal guiding operations that launch and haul their boat EVERY day so no one at the dock can see what they've caught. Every day the fish stay in the fish holds and they take the entire boat back to their "home".

Interestingly enough, they have a new group of "friends" every week, all summer long. We all know they are illegal guides but only an undercover agent could prove it.

Once they get their residency, many of them are fishing subsistence halibut skates. They fish for salmon all day and later pull their longline skates.

We are not talking about a few fish.

We are talking about hundreds of thousands of pounds of fish being taken from our waters.

There are many more on Prince of Wales Island and SE AK that claim to be residents of Alaska so they can take as much fish/game/crab/shrimp as possible to their real home in the lower 48.

They have no regard for conservation.

I encourage you to reach out the troopers on Prince of Wales Island to verify any of the above statements.

Thank you,

Kurt Whitehead  
Klawock, AK  
[REDACTED]





Craig Tribal Association  
P.O. Box 828  
Craig, Alaska 99921  
Tel: 907-826-3996  
Fax: 907-826-3997

July 19, 2023

Alaska State Capitol  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Juneau, AK. 99801

Dear Representative Rebecca Himschoot,

The Craig Tribal Association is pleased to support the House Bill 201, Residency Req: Hunting, Trapping, Fishing aligns requirements for and individual to receive a resident hunting, trapping, or sport fishing license with the requirement to receive a Permanent Fund Dividend.

This Bill 201 is in the best interest of Alaska residents who live here year-round, invest in their communities, and should be the only ones benefiting from the residential license. This will also benefit the state's revenue for out of state licenses.

We thank you for the opportunity to support this Bill 201 for the best interest of Alaska residents and our tribal citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clinton E. Cook Sr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clinton E. Cook, Sr.  
Tribal President

Thank you for the opportunity to tell my story.

I was originally born and raised in southern Utah. When I was about 15, a man who was friends with my father at the time asked if he could take me to Alaska for the summer. It was an opportunity of a lifetime for me. This man brought me to Alaska and had me help him build a house. He also took me fishing a few times that summer. I developed a relationship with this man and I also developed a love for Alaska. He brought me back to Alaska multiple Summers starting the summer of 2000.

This man makes his living putting on multi-day equestrian events. He holds multiple events every year. He always offered dinners at the end of every day at these events usually the last day of an event he will offer Alaskan halibut or salmon. He always made sure to let everybody know that this was fish that he caught himself.

This man has maintained an Alaska residency for well over 25 years now. Never once has he spent more than 3 months in the state of Alaska. He has all his vehicles registered in Alaska and almost none of them have ever even been in the state of Alaska. I no longer associate myself with this man for many reasons.

I'm not an avid fisherman. I didn't know what the regulations and rules were for fishing. I have now lived full time on Prince of Wales Island for over 4 years now. Over the last 4 years, I have learned a lot about fishing and hunting.

Several years ago it finally dawned on me what this man was doing. He was sport fishing as a resident and he was bringing kids like me and friends to Alaska every single summer to go fishing.

I wasn't big into eating fish so I never questioned where my fish was going. In hindsight, I never put a single fish that I caught over all of those years in my own freezer, it was always in his.

Looking back on it, this man has hauled a lot of fish down to the lower 48 and sold it for a profit.

This is my personal experience. I have been on both ends in regards to where this man caught his fish and where he sold it and I have seen it with my own eyes. From what I can tell, he is definitely not the exception to the rule.

It is clear as day to me now that people and corporations from all over the world are taking advantage of Alaska's weak regulations.

Alaska's resources are being plundered via loopholes.

I ask that you act on this bill and take steps towards closing some of these loopholes.

Sincerely Joseph M Johnson.



January 19, 2024

Dear Legislators of the 33rd Alaska Legislature,

The Craig City Council supports House Bill 201 sponsored by Representatives Himschoot and Hannan and Senate Bill 171 sponsored by Senator Bjorkman. These bills will change the residency requirements for hunting, trapping and sport fishing privileges to align with the requirements to receive a Permanent Fund Dividend (AS 43.23).

Passage of HB 201/SB 171 will benefit all Alaskans by:

- 1) Limiting the amount of time and reasons one can be absent from the state and still qualify for a resident license;
- 2) Making residency requirements easier to comprehend and enforce;
- 3) Protecting subsistence resources for year-round Alaska residents;
- 4) Decrease illegal guiding; and
- 5) Increase funding for the state of Alaska.

The statute changes proposed in HB 201/SB 171 will ensure that Alaskans who qualify for a resident hunting, trapping or sport fishing license are in fact year-round residents of Alaska who deserve the increased bag limits that are the privilege of state residents.

We urge the 33rd Legislature to pass HB 201/SB 171 into Alaska law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kasey" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kasey Smith  
Mayor, City of Craig



**RESIDENT HUNTERS OF ALASKA**

unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

Working hard to ensure our wildlife is managed sustainably with an emphasis on protecting and enhancing resident hunting opportunities!

[www.residenthuntersofalaska.org](http://www.residenthuntersofalaska.org)

January 22, 2024

To: Representative Himschoot, Representative Hannan

Re: HB 201 – Residency requirement for hunt/fish/trap license

Dear Representative Himschoot and Representative Hannan,

Thank you for introducing HB 201. Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) is in **support** of this bill, but we have some concerns about how it may affect certain Alaskans who may need to travel out of state for work, that don't fall under the current PFD exemptions.

One example came up at the Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting discussion of HB 201 on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. One of the members of that committee is an iron worker and explained that he can't find enough work in the state and often must work out of state for more than 180 days. He owns a home here, where his wife and children live, and doesn't receive benefits from another state. And as mentioned, he is a member of the Fairbanks F&G Advisory Committee, which requires one to be a local resident.

As HB 201 is currently written, he would not be able to receive a resident hunt/fish/trap license. He would not be considered a resident. There are likely many more who fall under the same scenario.

We recommend consideration of an amendment for an exemption for Alaskans like this who may work out of state more than 180 days.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)