

HR

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GOLDEN NORTH BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

BOX 254
Fairbanks, Alaska



CHARTERED BY: NATIONAL FIELD ARCHERY ASSOCIATION AND ALASKA STATE ARCHERY ASSOCIATION

March 20

Represtative Osterback
Pouch V
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Mr. Osterback:

This letter is in opposition to CSSB332 now before your committee. Instead of locking up even more Alaska land, we feel our legislators should be providing more opportunities for all Alaskan's. The People of this state have had their fill of lock-ups, and to think this will be forgotten at election time would be a mistake. The members of the Golden North Bowhunters and other sportmen's groups will make sure it is not.

Instead of just opposing this bill, we are offering an alternative. We have a proposal before the Game Board to open the Pipeline Closed Area to archery only hunting. We ask you to consider this approach, then let the Board decide. We feel this would best suit the needs of all Alaskan's for additional recreation. First, an arrow would pose no danger to the Pipeline itself. Due to the inherent difficulties of bowhunting, the actual harvest is minimal. Anyone, young or old, male or female, can learn to shoot a bow. We are no more a "special interest group." than those who dip at Chitna or use fly fishing only areas. Almost all bowhunters hunt with a rifle also, especially here in Alaska. It is the challenge that attracts and holds bowhunters.

We ask you to check the harvest rates, (success is usually 2-4%) and other statistics available. In states that keep records, more deer are killed on the highways than by archers. This includes states with 3 or 4 month seasons. When comparing Alaska's low animal density to deer populations outside, even lower success would be expected.

Before you close the door, please take the time to check into these ideals. The bow and arrow was important to both the Alaska Native and other non-natives early in their history. It is a cultural heritage of all Alaskans.

Sincerely

Charles D. Allen
Vice-President

"ARCHERY-the sport of man since time began"

Proposal Concerns

Game XX
Sport Fishing
Commercial Fishing

Subsistence
Advisory Committees

* * * SEE OTHER SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON COMPLETING THIS FORM * * *

Area(s) affected: HUNTING METHODS & MEANS

SAAC 81.070 Regulation book page no. 15
(Alaska Administrative Code No.)

Purpose of proposal TO OPEN THE TRANSALASKA PIPELINE CLOSED AREA TO ARCHERY ONLY HUNTING.

Suggested wording of Proposed Regulation (append if lengthy): BIG GAME MAY BE HUNTED ONLY WITH BOW AND ARROW IN THAT AREA KNOWN AS THE TRANSALASKA PIPELINE CLOSED AREA DURING SEASONS ESTABLISHED FOR THE GAME UNITS INVOLVED.

Justification: THIS PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SPORT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE PIPELINE CORRIDOR WHILE LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF GAME HARVESTED. DUE TO THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF BOWHUNTING, MAXIMUM RECREATIONAL DAYS CAN BE ENJOYED WITH MINIMUM IMPACT TO THE RESOURCE. THIS PROPOSAL RECOGNIZES THAT THE ORIGINAL CLOSURE WAS FOR AESTHETIC, NOT BIOLOGICAL REASONS. BOWHUNTING WOULD MAINTAIN THIS CONCEPT BY EMPHASIZING THE FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNTING EXPERIENCE, EVEN WHEN SUCCESS IS LOW, IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN. THIS PROPOSAL WOULD MAINTAIN PIPELINE INTEGRITY, AS AN ARROW WOULD POSE NO THREAT TO THE STEEL PIPE.

SUBMITTED BY: GOLDEN NORTH BOWHUNTERS ASSN REPRESENTING:
(Name & Address) PO BOX 254
FAIRBANKS, AK 99707