

SB

22

HC5 Box 6916F
Palmer, AK 99645
April 4, 1997

Chair Scott Ogan
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Ogan:

Mr. Chair, please share this letter with your Committee members to be submitted for the official record. Thank you.

I very strongly oppose Senate Bill 22 which requires that all members of the Board of Game must have held hunting or trapping licenses in the past 5 of 7 years.

Although I believe it is important and good to have hunters on the Board of Game, I strongly believe it is not necessary that all of the members be active hunters. What is necessary is that members of the Board of Game value our wildlife for everything that it is - not only game to provide meat for our subsistence or recreational hunters and trappers, but also something which makes Alaska very special to me... "wild" life.

Alaska's wildlife is important to all of us who live in Alaska, whether we kill it ourselves - or our husbands kill it; whether we eat it or not - or our family members eat it and we just enjoy having it in our home state.

The State of Alaska Board of Game is not the "Board of Hunters". Nor should it ever be! What it should be is a board made up of members knowledgeable about wildlife management so that we can rest assured that game populations will remain healthy into the future...for us and for our children; whether we hunt or even if we don't.

85% of Alaskans do not hold hunting or trapping licenses. I do not believe that membership on the Board of Game should be so discriminatory and limited to such a select few.

I have never done the hunting in my family, my husband has. But, my studies included wildlife management, his never did. And I have lived in different parts of the state where I became familiar with the local game while he didn't. And, I have even been at home during a couple of hunting seasons either pregnant or having babies while he has never had any experiences like that. This bill is clearly discriminatory against women as well.

SB22 is not fair legislation. I urge you to oppose it. I urge you instead to support having a Board of Game which can fulfill its duties to the utmost while more fairly representing those who live in this state who are highly knowledgeable and informed about Alaska's wildlife - whether they have hunting or trapping licenses or not.

Sincerely,



Nancy Michaelson
745-6673

DATE: April 5, 1997

Representatives Bill Hudson & Scott Ogan
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee
Members of the House Resources Committee

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL NO. 22(RES)

FROM: Bill Stockwell
P.O. Box 721
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

I am unable to attend the House Resources Hearing on SB 22 at 1 PM today. Please enter written testimony in the records of your hearing.

I am submitting this testimony as an individual and not as a member of any organization. I am a 25 year Alaskan now living in Cooper Landing. I am active in habitat, land use, fish and wildlife issues in the Kenai River Watershed and am a member of the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory committee. I have testified before and heard deliberations by the Boards of Game, Fisheries and the Joint Board in recent months. I know the process and the people.

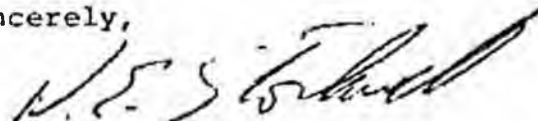
I received a copy of SB 22 from the Kenai LIO and have read this bill. I am OPPOSED to the enactment of Senate Bill NO. 22.

This bill is unnecessary and serves no useful purpose. The purchase of an Alaska hunting or trapping license is a requirement for the privilege to hunt or trap. No training, proficiency, or skill level in hunting or trapping is required nor is the desire to hunt or trap required to obtain these licenses. Adding the requirement to hold a hunting or trapping license to the other qualifications listed in AS 16.05.221(b) accomplishes absolutely nothing.

Additionally, the enactment of this bill will disenfranchise and discriminate against the large segment of the Alaskans who do not choose to exercise their privilege to hunt or trap but who use Alaska's wildlife for economic gain or personal pleasure. As few new residents to Alaska will have held nonresident hunting and/or trapping licenses for 4 or more years before moving to our State, this bill would impose a de facto 5 year resident requirement for Board of Game membership. This is unequal, unfair and discriminatory.

The people now serving on the Boards of Fisheries and Game serve the best interests of all Alaskans. Please vote against this unnecessary change to AS 16.05.221(b).

Thank you for reading my comments. Sincerely,



April 4, 1997

Chair Scott Ogan
House Resources Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chair Ogan:

Mr. Chair, please provide this letter to your Committee members for their official record, thank you.

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill 22 which mandates that members of the Board of Game must have held hunting or trapping licenses in the past 5 of 7 years. This is clearly discriminatory against women, the elderly, and disabled Alaskans. It also assumes that only active hunters have a stake in the future of our wildlife.

A recent statewide Anchorage Daily News poll indicates that more than half the people who responded to the poll oppose this legislation.

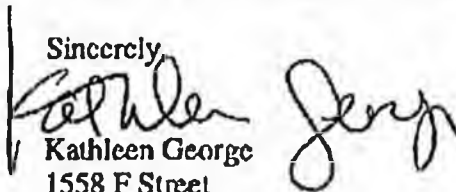
The bill erroneously makes the assumption that only hunters and trappers have knowledge about wildlife management or have a strong interest in Alaska's wildlife. The bill also flies in the face of the Alaska Constitution, which states that "fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use." (Article 8, Section 3) and "Laws and regulations governing the use or disposal of natural resources shall apply equally to all persons..." (Article 8, Section 17).

More than 85% of Alaskans do not hold hunting or trapping licenses and therefore would not qualify to serve on the Board of Game. The bill is highly discriminatory to women who hold only 6% of the hunter and trappers licenses in the state, even though we make up 48% of the population. In addition, the bill excludes disabled people, who are unable to hunt for various reasons, from serving on the board as well as older Alaskans who may have been lifelong hunters but can no longer hunt due to illness or frailty.

The bill is also discriminatory to parents with small children. For example, Lori Quakenbush - a recent Board of Game nominee - is an active hunter. However, under this bill, she would be disqualified from serving on the board because she didn't have a hunting license for two of the last five years due to either pregnancy or infant care. All other years she did.

SB33 is so egregiously unfair and so unconstitutional that I strongly urge you to oppose it. Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to share my opinions.

Sincerely,



Kathleen George
1558 F Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

cc: Governor Knowles

LAW OFFICES

TAYLOR & HANLON, P.C.

237 EAST FIREWED LANE, SUITE 302 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 • TELEPHONE (907) 276-6211 • FAX (907) 279-1136

Kneeland Taylor

James J. Hanlon

April 5, 1997

Representative Bill Hudson
FAX 465-2273

Representative Scott Ogan
FAX 465-3265

Dear Representatives:

I have lived in Alaska 22 years, am married, have three children and two grandchildren. I regard myself as a political moderate. In 1980 I ran for the State House from Downtown Anchorage, as a Republican, and in the early 1980's was a Republican precinct committeeman. Through much of the 1980's, I was on the Board of Directors of Common Sense for Alaska. I have been a member of Arctic Power for several years. I routinely vote for both Republicans and Democrats.

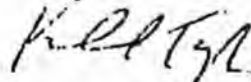
But I do not hunt or trap.

SB 22 would prevent me from ever serving on the Board of Game. Thus, SB 22 would make a second class citizen of me.

I am a first class Alaskan. I resent very strongly anyone who tells me I am second class. I promise that I will work in the next election to defeat those who tell me I am second class.

Please provide a copy of this letter to all members of the House Resource Committee.

Very truly yours,



Kneeland Taylor

SB22/HB96: Representation Denied

o: House Resources Committee

April 5, 1997

As an Alaskan who has successfully hunted caribou and sheep, I am concerned our right of representation as Alaskans is about to be curtailed by two bills before our legislature: SB22 and HB96. Both seek to limit membership on the Board of Game to holders of hunting or trapping licenses, the reason being, as SB22 author Sen. Bert Sharp expresses it, to ensure personal interest in wildlife issues.

However, what Sen. Sharp (SB22) and Rep. Al Vezey (HB96) choose to ignore are three simple facts. First, under the Alaskan Constitution (Sec. 8.17) ALL Alaskans are assured equal participation in the disposition of our resources, which includes wildlife. Second, all our wildlife is reserved in common use for ALL Alaskans (Sec. 8.3). Third, 15% of Alaskans would NOT qualify to serve on this board which sets the regulations governing the disposition of our wildlife.

In other words, though our state constitution guarantees all Alaskans have equal ownership of our wildlife Sen. Sharp and Rep. Vezey, in their bills, will allow representation for ONLY the 15% licensed to hunt or trap. Plain and simple, their bills are a denial of representation for the vast majority of Alaskans in respect to our game animals. Many of you reading this letter would have no representation on the board that determines the usage and future of Alaska's wildlife.

Alaskans represent divergent views and uses of our resources. From the wildlife photographer who may not choose to hunt but whose income is dependent on these animals to the hiker, the backpacker, the wilderness tour guide to the hunter and trapper...all make use in some fashion of our fauna. To each, the health of our wild populations is of considerable interest and concern as is demonstrated in the vote on Ballot Measure #3. To deny non-hunting/trapping users of our natural resources their representation based solely upon their use is terribly wrong. As the Board of Game makes decisions affecting ALL our wildlife, so should its membership reflect as much as possible ALL Alaskans, not just a very select group.

Hunters have good reason to be in the forefront of conservation efforts (and often are), as much as any non-hunter participating in such activities. To then turn about and deny people such as Nicole Whittington-Evans a place on the Board because she represents conservation (which is not at all an anti-hunting philosophy) is to deny the very claims of the hunting population. As Lori Quakenbush, another excellent candidate who under these bills would be denied membership since they are in effect, remarked, we do need diversity on the Board. Without it, we deny so many Alaskans what is rightfully, constitutionally theirs.

Imagine for a moment you and Sen. Sharp or Rep. Vezey each paid half in buying a truck together. For whatever reason you choose not to use it. Sharp or Vezey use it, pay for the license plates on it. Then, one day one of them comes up to you and says, "Guess what? I sold our truck!" You were not consulted or forewarned. Instead, something as much yours as his was disposed of by him without your rightful participation in the matter.

Look at these bills, SB22, HB96. Read the above citations in the state constitution. Then ask yourself how you would feel as a private citizen when Sharp or Vezey come back to you from Juneau and say, "Guess what?"

Sincerely,
Art Greenwalt

2135 Yankovich Rd.
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709
479-0317

Internet: art@polarnet.com

0-LS0195F
Utermohle
4/4/97

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 22(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Taylor

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to qualifications for appointment to the Board of Game."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 16.05.221(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) For purposes of the conservation and development of the game resources
5 of the state, there is created a Board of Game composed of seven members appointed
6 by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the
7 legislature in joint session. The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of
8 interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action
9 of the board, and with the goal of managing for abundance of the resource for
10 harvest and viewing enjoyment and of promoting maximum common use [A
11 VIEW TO PROVIDING DIVERSITY OF INTEREST AND POINTS OF VIEW IN
12 THE MEMBERSHIP]. The appointed members must [SHALL] be residents of the
13 state, and a minimum of five of the seven members must have held an Alaska
14 hunting or trapping license or a permanent identification card issued under
15 AS 16.05.400(b) during at least three of the five years preceding the appointment

1 to the board. The members of the board shall be appointed without regard to
2 political affiliation or geographical location of residence. The commissioner is not a
3 member of the Board of Game, but shall be ex officio secretary.

4 * Sec. 2. APPLICABILITY. AS 16.05.221(b), as amended by sec. 1 of this Act, applies
5 to persons appointed to the Board of Game after the effective date of this Act.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CO-CHAIRMAN
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
RESOURCE COMMITTEE



Senate

FAIRBANKS
DENALI BANK BUILDING
119 N. CUSHMAN, SUITE 201
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-7885/7886
FAX (907) 456-4221

SESSION ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 516
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3004/4921
FAX (907) 465-2070

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 22 - Board of Game Qualifications Senator Bert Sharp

This Bill amends the required qualifications for persons that may be appointed as a member of the Board of Game by adding the requirement that five of the seven members 'must have held an Alaska hunting or trapping license or a permanent ID card (over 60) during at least three of the previous five years preceding their appointment to the board. This added requirement would provide improved assurance of interest fostered by past involvement in legal utilization of the game resource and understanding of the dynamics of arctic game resource management.

Several states have this "licensed" qualification required for appointment to their state wildlife boards.

Many believe this will markedly improve the dedication and commitment of future game board members and encourages stronger actions to improve the policies affecting users of the resource.

SB 22 has a zero fiscal note from the Department of Fish & Game.

Thank you.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA