

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
November 28, 2016 | Teleconference

On-Time Public Comments Index

Alaska Outdoor Council	PC01
Al Barrette	PC02
Aaron Bloomquist	PC03
Copper Valley Development Association	PC04
John Duhamel	PC05
Gulkana Tribal Council	PC06
Mercedes Knighten	PC07
Mike Kramer	PC08
Lucille Lincoln	PC09
Paul Rude	PC10
Mike Tinker	PC11
Ahtna, Incorporated	PC12
Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce	PC13



Submitted By
Rod Arno
Submitted On
11/22/2016 1:20:36 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Outdoor Council

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The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) request that the March 2017 BOG Special Meeting remain in Wasilla as determined by the Board of Game at their October 23, 2016 Teleconference.

Surely the board took into consideration that consistently since 2009 Mat Valley and Anchorage hunters have been issued +70% of the CM300 moose permits. Similar percentages for Copper Basin caribou CSH hunters and Nelchina caribou Tier I permit holders. In the Alaska Supreme Court decision in the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund v. SOA, 2015, the court made it clear;

"Regulations promulgated by the Alaska board of game established two different system of subsistence hunting moose and caribou in Alaska's Copper Basin region"

The board created the two different patterns of subsistence users in the Copper Basin and is still responsible for accommodating both patterns of subsistence uses under the state subsistence law, AS 16.05.258(b)(1). Most of the subsistence users of moose and caribou in GMU 13 don't live in the Copper Basin near Glennallen.

I'm also sure the board took into consideration that they just adopted a 3-year Board of Game cycle because they were told by the Commissioner of Fish & Game that money was running out. Funding the special meeting for March 2017 is unnecessary when if the board chose to it could've easily been added to a scheduled regulatory meeting. There is no justification for the additional expense to the department for conducting a BOG special meeting in March 2017 in Glenallen.

ACR 10 - 11. AOC recommendation is to schedule one or both of these proposals to a 2017 BOG scheduled meeting for deliberations. 5 AAC 92.005(a)(2)b gives the board a chance to save themselves and the state from needless litigation whenever the majority of board members are led astray. There is nothing in AS 16.05.407 that comes close to allowing the Board of Game to restrict resident hunting opportunity as they did in adopting proposal 51 at the 2016 BOG Statewide meeting.

ACR 12. AOC recommendation is to schedule this proposals to a 2017 BOG scheduled meeting for deliberations. If the department comes back and says yes there is harvestable surplus of bull moose in GMU 18 that all Alaskans can access the board should take action. You can't stock pile harvestable surplus by regulating hunting for very long, there is no reason this proposal should become victim to the three-year cycle. 5 AAC 92.005(a)(2)c gives the Orutsarmiut Native Council members and all Alaskarmiut chance to harvest surplus moose in GMU 18, if department data supports an increase in the harvestable surplus in a timely matter.



Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Game

You have asked for comments on request to hold the "March 2017 Special Board meeting in Glennallen." The simple answer is NO. As BOG had addressed to stay with the 2 year cycle vs. the 3 year cycle the BOG chose the 3 year. Against what the majority of AC's had advised. So here we are. The 3 year cycle has not worked, and has not saved much if any Board Support funds, as it was the driving force to change. Hate to say "we told you so".

As I have followed ACR's submitted out of cycle, I have seen no consistency on what ACR's get accepted and what ones don't. (i.e. an ACR was submitted to address the wolf buffer zone. it was denied, based on it was out of cycle. Yet an ACR was submitted by the Department via the Commissioner dealing with Unit 13 and the Board accepted it. Even though it is in cycle for next year. Just as was the request for the wolf buffer zone. There are others but I will not pontificate on the feckless way ACR's are accepted or not.)

With that being said, and so many ways to "game" the system (no pun intended) and carting to some special groups and not others. The "process" needs a well over due overhaul, and get back to the intent of our process. We do not have the funds to address every whim, and or change to our regulations out of the current cycle. We have to have a vetting system that is consistence, and adhered to.

If the Boards is going to have a special dealing with Unit 13 moose and caribou I would want it to be in the Mat-Su Valley. This would be the wisest use of our dwindling board support funds and allow more options for lodging and meeting place.

Another option would be to extend the Fairbanks meeting one or two more days. This option saves the most money. Which needs to address. That is why we are in the two year cycle, isn't it?

Al Barrette

Submitted By
aaron
Submitted On
11/21/2016 12:36:01 PM
Affiliation



PC03
1 of 1

I believe all three ACR's meet the criteria for acceptance.

ACR's 10 & 11 Although I don't necessarily agree with their argument, 10 & 11 bring up aspects that were not discussed at the 2016 Statewide meeting when dealing with this issue.

ACR 12 explains an unforeseen consequence of the short season conflicting with the Federal season in checkerboard land status area with very high opportunity to harvest within sustainable parameters.

I support the spring meeting in Glennallen. I have suggested this for years for the BOG and BOF. Glennallen is the epicenter of Unit 13 disputes. There should be plenty of rooms available, especially if local businesses are given notice. There are also rooms available at many B&B's in the area. It is my opinion that the Board should make every effort to hold meetings in non-standard areas on a regular basis.



Copper Valley Development Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 9, Glennallen, AK 99588 * 907-822-5001 phone * 907-822-5009 fax
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11/21/16

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: March Mtg in Glennallen

Board of Game,

I am writing supporting and requesting the meeting scheduled for March of 2017 be held in Glennallen, preferably at the Copper River School District. This community and region are significantly impacted by the decisions made by the Board. Having public access handily available for comment would significantly increase the Boards understanding of issues we face here by your decisions. The Copper Valley has felt and dealt with many of the community subsistence hunting issues as well as many other issues of our region that the Board has weighed. By having the meeting here, the Board of Game can exemplify that it is truly concerned with proper vetting of the regions impacted by their decisions.

The Copper Valley has adequate meeting spaces, lodging and food for the Board to hold its meeting here. By bringing the meeting with such important issues to our region, it will undoubtedly help our struggling economy and businesses here. Additionally, it will give an opportunity for the Board and its support staff to first hand see our neck of the woods in Alaska.

Please come to the Copper Valley and discuss issues that are impacting our way of life and the land, resources and game here. Do not hesitate to contact me for further comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Hoke".

Jason Hoke
Executive Director



Submitted By
John Duhamel
Submitted On
11/22/2016 10:11:16 AM
Affiliation
Glennallen Resident

Phone
907 822-3211
Email
duhamel@cvea.org
Address
PO Box 45
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

I would like to echo the other community leaders in Glennallen to request the March Board of Game meeting to be conducted here.

Our community is critically depended on game and fish. Recently, changes in regulation/game rules have expanded hunting opportunities in this area. These changes even allow non-subsistence hunters to participate in hunts normally reserved for people that need it most.

Having the Board of Game meeting here would allow our community a chance to describe the impact to us. As well it would allow for open dialogue from the people that are most affected by the rule changes.

I hope that you consider this request and if so, I look forward to meeting you.

Respectfully,

John



From: Administrative Assistant
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: March 2017 Meeting in Regard to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:36:28 PM
Attachments: [Black PDF_2016112316241800.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Here are some comments submitted for the March 2017 Meeting. Thank you.

Gulkana Village Council
PO BOX 254
Gakona, AK 99586
(907) 822-3746



11/22/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

It is my pleasure to invite the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to hold their Special Board of Game Meeting for March 2017 in Glennallen, Alaska. Our Community can promise adequate meeting facilities and lodging for all in attendance. Unit 13 is home to the Community Hunt and community members who have participated in this hunt will be in attendance also. There is potential for a large attendance to this special meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Maxim".

Amanda Maxim
P.O. Box 748
Glennallen, AK 99588



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

I understand that the March 2017, Alaska Department of Fish and Games Special Board of Game Meeting is considering locations to hold the meeting and I am extremely proud to extend to you an invitation to hold your meeting in Glennallen, Alaska, Unit 13 area. This would be a great benefit to the local hunters who can attend since the impact area is in our backyard. You can hear firsthand the impact of hunting in our area.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann R. Maxim".

Ann Maxim
P.O. Box 137
Gakona, AK. 99586



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

It is my pleasure to invite the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to hold their Special Board of Game Meeting for March 2017 in Glennallen, Alaska. Our Community can promise adequate meeting facilities and lodging for all in attendance. Unit 13 is home to the Community Hunt and community members who have participated in this hunt will be in attendance also. There is potential for a large attendance to this special meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Felicia Ewan".

Felicia Ewan
P.O. Box 272
Gakona, AK. 99586



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

This letter expresses my opinion for the location of the Special Board of Game Meeting for March 2017. I would like to see the meeting held in Glennallen due to the local communities and villages being in Unit 13 which is home of the Community Hunt Permit.

Hosting the meeting in our Community will also have a positive economic benefit in addition to increasing the prospect for participation by hunters and community members.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Ewan".

Roy Ewan
P.O. Box 242
Gakona, AK. 99586



11/22/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

It is my pleasure to invite the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to hold their Special Board of Game Meeting for March 2017 in Glennallen, Alaska. Our Community can promise adequate meeting facilities and lodging for all in attendance. Unit 13 is home to the Community Hunt and community members who have participated in this hunt will be in attendance also. There is potential for a large attendance to this special meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eveline Frank".

Eveline Frank
P.O. Box 198
Gakona, AK 99586



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

This letter expresses my interest in the location of the Special Board of Game meeting for March 2017 to be located in Glennallen. Glennallen and the local communities and villages are located in Unit 13, home of the Community Hunt Permit. We are the most impacted by the CHP since it is in our backyard. It is only right for the Board of Game to have their meeting in the region where the residents are most affected and where the CHP takes place.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eileen L. Ewan".

Eileen L. Ewan
P.O. Box 272
Gakona, AK. 99586



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

In regards to considering the to be announced location for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Special Board of Game Meeting for March 2017 I would like to request the meeting be held in Glennallen since Unit 13 is in our Communities backyard and we are the most impacted.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Jackson".

Nick Jackson
P.O. Box 123
Gakona, AK. 99586



11/21/2016

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

Re: March 2017 Meeting in regards to the Copper Basin Community Hunt Venue Location

I am extremely proud to extend to you an invitation to hold your March 2017, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Board of Game Meeting in Glennallen, Alaska, Unit 13 area.

It only makes sense that this meeting be held in Unit 13 as it has the largest impact of hunting participants. It will also benefit our economy tremendously and have a positive effect on attendance.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Jackson".

Frances Jackson
P.O. Box 123
Gakona, AK. 99586



Submitted By
Mercedes Knighten
Submitted On
11/21/2016 1:57:43 PM
Affiliation

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Community Hunt

I would like to see the Board of Game meeting addressing the Community hunt to be held in the Copper River Region. The hunt impacts the native and non-native residents of this region. They are impacted by the influx of hunters coming into and out of our region and the issues of so many outside hunters hunting in our areas of use. The hunters in this area are all hunting to provide for their winter preparations. We have wild game feeds and film festivals in our area to celebrate our hunting harvest with our community.

The people of the Copper River region would like a say on the impact we have in our area with this hunt. Please let us have a chance to be heard. We count on this hunt to provide for our families and many families are not getting a successful hunt.

Thank you

Mercedes Knighten



Submitted By
Mike Kramer
Submitted On
11/22/2016 9:29:28 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9073471240
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mike@mikekramerlaw.com
Address
216 sacia ave
fairbanks, Alaska 99712

I was just advised that the Board was entertaining a request to hold the special unit 13 meeting in Glennallen. There was no information provided as to who made the request or under what authority the request was made. The board should deny this request for several reasons.

It is important for the Board's credibility for it to be consistent in its procedures and not appear to favor any particular group.

Many already perceive Ahtna Inc to have preferential access to the Board. Ahtna makes a strong showing at all meetings regardless of location, their comments at meetings are given extraordinary reverence, and the board has a history of adopting Ahtna game management proposals.

Ahtna owns 1.5 million acres of land, has 13 subsidiaries and earned \$184,000,000 in revenue in 2014. It pays for its shareholders to attend meetings throughout the state and has employees who are paid to work on fish and game issues.

The Board, in contrast, is broke, and has already cut substantial services. Ahtna can afford to come to Wasilla, but the board cannot afford to go to Glennallen.

The overwhelming majority of hunters who will be affected by unit 13 changes live in southcentral and cannot travel to Glennallen to participate. Glennallen also lacks adequate services to host a large public meeting in the winter.

The newest board member is from Glennallen and a board member of Ahtna. Some members of the public may feel that this fact has been given special importance by the board. Some will question whether a move to Glennallen would have even been proposed or considered, but for the recent appointment. Will it become customary to move board meetings to the hometowns of members?

The board is already under deserved scrutiny for treating an informal letter by Ahtna as a special meeting request and agenda change request and then setting a special meeting to address unit 13 without any definitive proposals. The board will have a blank slate on which to craft allocation changes. The public already has no meaningful opportunity to participate because we don't even know what changes the board is going to entertain. Whoever is present at the actual meeting will shape the outcome. The board should not exacerbate its credibility problem by moving the hastily called unprecedented special meeting at the last minute to an expensive and remote location where only a small fraction of hunt participants reside. Should the new board member not recuse herself from consideration of Ahtna driven proposals, and the Board then crafts and adopts any regulation that provides an Ahtna preference, the board will lose enormous credibility with the broader public it serves, and will set terrible precedent.

Imagine if the Board of Fisheries received an out of cycle letter from United Fisherman of Alaska complaining vaguely about allocation of false pass sockeye without offering any proposal about how to fix the perceived allocation problem. The board then sets a special meeting in Anchorage at a cheap venue with no coffee service and tells remote ACs that there are insufficient funds to allow them to participate. The governor then appoints an "area M" commercial fisher and UFA board member from Unimak Island to the board. Just days before public comment ends on unpublished allocation changes the board entertains an anonymous request to move the meeting to Unimak. This current situation is very analogous.

This meeting already is highly problematic. please do not compound those problems by moving it to Glennallen.



From: Lucille Lincoln
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Board of game meeting place
Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 1:48:43 PM

To whom this may concern

I live and hunt in the copper river area , and since the community hunt is in our Area what better place to hold the game board , after all we in the copper river basin Are most impacted by this hunt , we have plenty of places that are large enough to hold this meeting and also have plenty of lodging , this will also give the people that are most impacted from the influx of people a chance to participate in the process

Lucille A Lincoln
Village member

Sent from my iPad



Submitted By
Paul Rude
Submitted On
11/22/2016 10:18:32 AM
Affiliation
CRNA

Phone
907-822-5241
Email
paulrude@crnative.org
Address
PO Box H
Copper Center, Alaska 99588

Greetings,

I am writing to encourage the Board of Game to hold its March meeting in Glennallen.

We, the Copper River Community, gladly welcome the Board of Game. We can provide several good options for accommodations and meeting venues. And we will provide the technology and logistics support to ensure a successful meeting for the Board.

Our regional Community has been significantly impacted by both the Community Moose hunt and the Unit 13 Caribou Hunts. I believe the Board of Game would greatly value and appreciate the opportunity to hear the voices of those who are deeply impacted by the Board's decisions.

Thank you for considering this request. And please don't hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Rude
Chief Executive Officer
Copper River Native Association
paulrude@crnative.org
907-822-5241



Comments from Mike Tinker, Ester, Alaska representing myself and my family.

ACR 10

My recommendation. Accept

The bag limit restriction on residents is not universally supported by biological or conservation concerns. The Board has historically used those concerns as the driving reason for restrictions. The restriction in place is more related to the feelings of special interest groups. Feelings and emotions are not good reasons to restrict. With the law being the highest, best use of game as food for residents the Board should accept this reconsideration request for further discussion.

ACR 11

My recommendation. Add this "issue" (Board authority) to the discussion for ACR 10.

It doesn't need to be separate.

ACR 12

My recommendation. Condition your action on the departments recommendation.

This request gets into the "more harvest" request which should always hinge on the opportunity for reasonable opportunity. If the harvestable surplus can justify a longer season, the Board should accept this ACR for discussion. If the present population does not support an immediate change, the proposers can bring the issue up again in cycle.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Corporate Headquarters
PO Box 649
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
Office: (907) 822-3476
Fax: (907) 822-3495



PC12
1 of 3

Fax: (907) 868-8285

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November 18, 2016

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
ATTN: Alaska Board of Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: Agenda Change Requests

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

Ahtna Tene Nene' hereby respectfully and gratefully submits its comments on Agenda Change Requests ("ACR") 10 and 11, and recommends that the Board of Game hold the Special Meeting on Copper Basin Hunting & Subsistence in the Copper Basin. The two ACRs are unnecessary and do not meet the criteria for an ACR. In addition, the regulatory changes they recommend do not meet the criteria for Board of Game regulations. Ahtna Tene Nene' respectfully submits that both ACRs should be disapproved by the Board of Game. Furthermore, Ahtna Tene Nene' notes that much of the substantive agenda for the March meeting are of primary concern to people within the Copper River Basin. Ahtna Tene Nene' recommends that the Board of Game hold its meeting close to the people most affected, in order to collect their input at the meeting.

ACRs 10 and 11 are intended to remove the statewide bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred. As a preliminary matter, this is not an issue that requires an immediate correction: the bag limits will not be changed soon or suddenly, and there is no reason for the Board to consider this request out of order. As ACR 10 correctly notes, this matter will be before the Board in the ordinary course as part of Proposal 19: there is no urgent need to take it up now. But more substantively, that proposed change does not meet the criteria of serving a conservation purpose; correcting an error in regulation; or correcting an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted. The proposal does not contradict this: it correctly points out that the ACR is not proposed for a conservation purpose or to correct an error in regulation, and points only to an unfounded assertion of "discrimination" in identifying the allegedly unforeseen effect of the regulation. But that effect, to the degree it exists, was not unforeseen, it was a purpose of the regulation.

AS16.05255(a)(10) and 5 AAC 92.130(j) provide that a resident relative may assist a nonresident relative while hunting for guided species. When that happens, two hunters participate in a single harvest. Because the harvest is made by both hunters, it should count against the quota of each. The regulation setting this out was well within the Board of Game's authority, and is having its intended effect: hunters



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have the opportunity to share Alaska's hunting opportunities with non-resident relatives, but their sharing does not diminish the opportunities of other hunters in the field.

This is consistent with other hunts. For instance, under 5 AAC 92.130(e), a hunter under 10 years of age must hunt only under the direct supervision of a licensed hunter. Any game taken counts against the supervising hunter's quota. Under 5 AAC 92.130(i), any big game other than deer harvested counts against both the supervising hunter's quota and the youth's quota (notwithstanding that the youth must take the first shot). The language of AS 16.05.255(i), which the regulations implement, is instructive: it distinguishes between a hunter "assisting" another versus two hunters hunting together, and each separately taking game. The distinction is that an "assistant" can shoot the same animal as the primary hunter. Since both participate in the harvest of the individual animal, the harvest counts against both of their quota. When each hunter hunts, without the assistance but in the presence of another hunter, they may not participate in one another's harvests. As such, they each maintain a separate quota.

Similarly, when a resident relative accompanies a nonresident relative on a guided species hunt, one is considered (and authorized) to assist the other. The Board of Game has properly made the determination that when a nonresident relative accompanies a resident, it is likely that they will not hunt separately but will instead each participate in harvesting animals. It may not always be the case, but the Board has correctly determined that it is likely.

Moreover, separating the quotas would not serve the Board's legitimate conservation purpose, and would not give appropriate preference to local resident hunting needs. The contested regulation was made pursuant to the Board's power to "regulat[e] sport hunting and subsistence hunting as needed for the conservation, development, and utilization of game." AS 16.05.255(a)(10). Regulations made under that authority are subject to the restriction that they must give a preference for resident hunting for personal or family consumption over uses by nonresident hunters. AS 16.05.255(d). The existing regulation strikes that balance: while permitting nonresident hunters accompanied by a resident to participate in the hunt, the regulation ensures that the resident hunter's quota will be affected. This, in turn, ensures that game will be conserved, but also developed and utilized, and that game will be shared within a family. The alternative, consistent with the requirements of statute, would be to prohibit or severely limit nonresident hunting, or to disallow the assistance of resident hunters in nonresident hunts. Allowing relatives the option of hunting together without negatively impacting other hunters is a good and fair balance.

The proponents of ACR 10 contend that 5 AAC 92.130 discriminates between resident hunters who accompany nonresident relatives, on the one hand, and resident guides who accompany nonresident hunters on the other. While the regulation does not apply to guides, it does not discriminate: whether or not a person has a guiding license, they are affected by a uniform application of the regulation. And if it did discriminate, that would be not only permissible, but required: the regulation implements the required preference for resident consumptive uses over nonresident uses. The charge of discrimination

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PC12
3 of 3

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is misplaced. In any event, this Board is not subject to (and should not delegate its regulatory authority to) the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

In fact, it is not at all clear what the intention of the proposal actually is. To the degree the alleged discrimination is that resident hunters will not be allowed to act as unpaid guides for their out-of-state family, that discrimination seems wholly appropriate: just because they are a relative does not mean they have met the criteria for becoming a big game guide in Alaska. They are not regulated as guides. They do not pay licensing fees like guides, or face the sanctions guides face. It would be inappropriate and unfair to treat them as guides.

ACR 11 claims to be motivated primarily out of concern for the legal interpretation of the Board's governing statutes. With respect, Ahtna Tene Nene' believes the proposers to have reached an incorrect legal conclusion, and believes that the Board of Game's counsel, who reviewed the proposal resulting in the subject regulation before it was adopted, correctly concluded that it was within the Board's power to interpret the law as it has done. In any event, again, this ACR should fail because it simply does not meet the criteria for an ACR. The time to have asserted a legal challenge to the proposal that became the subject regulation was when the proposal was made, not be ACR after the fact. The regulation that was adopted was the one the Board intended. The proponents of ACR 11 have not demonstrated the existence of an error or a change in circumstance indicating an unintended effect. Ahtna Tene Nene' respectfully requests that the Board allow the regulation to operate as-is, and not rush to fix something that is not broken.

Finally, Ahtna Tene Nene' cordially invites the Alaska Board of Game to the Copper Basin to hold the already announced Copper Basin Hunting and Subsistence Meeting planned for mid-March 2017. We understand that several organizations have offered to host such a meeting. Because the primary subject matter of the meeting will be hunting in the Copper Basin, it makes sense for it to be held here so that the Board can hear input from the most affected individuals. As the Board is aware, driving to Anchorage or the Mat-Su Borough is a substantial hardship on subsistence hunters, many of whom do not participate in the cash economy. By traveling to where the subsistence hunters live, the Board would be able to hear concerns and ways to improve the community subsistence hunt from local subsistence hunters. Holding the meeting close to an urban center and away from the affected population risks the Board losing input from an important constituent group.

Sincerely,

Storia Stuchwen
for Eleanor Dementi
Eleanor Dementi, Chair



Submitted By
Bruce Cain
Submitted On
11/22/2016 4:57:22 PM
Affiliation
President, Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce

Phone
907-822-5555
Email
dadcain@gmail.com
Address
P.O. Box 469
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

The Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce cordially invites the Alaska Board of Game to hold its March 2017 meeting in the Copper Basin. The community hunt issue that will be discussed is of great importance to businesses and residents of the Copper Basin and it would be good to have the meeting here.

We have done an informal survey of the businesses and meeting venues available in the March 2017 time frame and there are many options available for the board to hold its meeting and for participants travelling from out of town to obtain lodging and purchase meals.

The Copper Basin is centrally located on the road system and participants in the community hunt know the path well. The road is maintained in good condition and it should be easy and affordable to access our community for most participants.

The meeting will also give our local economy and business community a little boost at a slow time of year. This would be a big help as well.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely:

Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce

Bruce Cain, President