



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

February 5, 2025

To: House Fisheries Committee

Re: HB 33 - Conflict of Interest Boards of Fisheries and Game

Dear Chair Stutes and members of the House Fisheries Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) is a hunting conservation organization with some 3,500 members from across the state who support sustainable wildlife management policies and a resident hunting priority as mandated in Article 8 of our state constitution.

RHAK **supports** HB 33 as currently drafted to allow Board of Fisheries and Board of Game members who declare they have a conflict of interest on a proposal before them to still be allowed to participate in deliberations.

There are many instances, particularly on the Board of Fisheries, when the most knowledgeable board member on a specific proposal before the board must declare a conflict of interest, because he or she or a family member has a financial interest in the outcome of a proposal. Under the current system, that member then cannot even deliberate on that proposal. It is important that we allow a member of either board who declares a conflict of interest, who may have intimate knowledge regarding a proposal, to at least participate in deliberations over that proposal.

It is equally important, however, that a member with a declared conflict of interest on a particular proposal is **not** allowed to vote on that proposal.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards – Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska