

RC 062

Members of the Board,

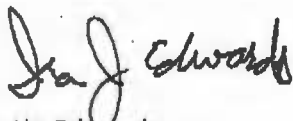
Thank you so much for considering my testimony on Proposal #150. I know that you will bring it up today with the rest of the unit 14C proposals. I am back at work and cannot attend.

Something was just brought to my attention late last night by a disabled advocacy group. Not all above or below knee amputees can meet the 70% disabled cutoff listed in my proposal. My goal with this proposal was primarily to increase public safety in a heavily used recreational area, and also to be inclusive of those mobility impaired individuals who can't hike in for a moose because of needing a mobility device like a wheelchair, or without the aid of prosthetics or similar assistive devices. My use of the statement "Eligible Hunters will be those with a PHYSICAL disability of 70% or greater as noted under AS 16.05.940(25)" would exclude many people I envisioned being eligible.

If it doesn't affect the legal qualifications for how this hunt could be run, I am asking if the board can amend my proposal to reflect that those with lower limb amputations and prosthetics can be included? I chose the requirements like those for disabled folks using motor vehicles on the Kenai NWR as it has been tried and tested. Most of the folks I talked to with mobility impairments would meet those standards. But now I've found out that some amputees may or may not, depending on how their doctor rated them. I don't want to exclude those folks.

I don't know why this group didn't bring this to my attention when I ran my proposal by them over a year ago...

Sincerely,



Ira Edwards

Rooster.skier@gmail.com

907-440-9112