

Mr. Ted Spraker, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

Mr. Ted Spraker, Alaska Board of Game members,

The Alaska Falconers Association supports proposal #158, which will eliminate the West Nile Virus testing and immunization requirements for raptors that are imported into the State of Alaska.

The Board of Game accepted this proposal as an agenda change request so its merits could be heard prior to the regularly scheduled falconry issues that will be up for discussion in January 2018. This 2018 meeting will be a full year from now. DFG's A & R's ask the Board to defer this proposal until 2018 when a rewrite of the falconry manual will be presented to the board. The rewrite of the manual is not designed to include any substantive changes to regulations, but only clarification and streamlining of verb age. Proposal #158 requests the Board to make a regulatory change, which would be a substantive change to the manual. This manual rewrite is the only reason given by the Department for the deferral. The Alaska Falconers association feels that it is important that the Board give proposal 158 an up or down vote at this meeting so falconers that take birds outside of Alaska to hunt, do not have to go through the virus testing and or vaccination process for another year when they import the birds back into Alaska.

The Alaska Falconers Association, founded in 1979, represents the interests of all Alaska resident falconers.

Thank you for your attention into this matter.

Sincerely,

Dave Lorrington, President,  
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