

March 7, 2019

To the Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

We, the Customary and Traditional Use Committee supports efforts to close hunting to Residents in Game Management Use 20B to the taking of an antlerless moose.

Within the US Constitution under 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and under Article 1, Section 4 of the Alaska State Constitution, Alaska Native People have a fundamental right to hold a religious ceremonial event for a funeral and memorial potlach.

The US Constitution and Alaska State Constitution recognizes the religious right to hold a funeral and memorial potlach. It is an integral and central religious ceremony held by Indigenous People of Alaska to hold an honor ceremony for the death of a loved one. Both federal and state governing powers regard, hold, and esteem the value of this religious right to the Alaska Native People.

According to 5 AAC 92.019 the taking of animals for certain religious ceremonies for potlaches is a vital right of Alaska Natives for funeral and memorial potlaches in accordance with sustained yield, along with approval of animals to be taken as determined by Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the ceremonial religious event.

The taking an animal for a religious ceremony has the highest precedence over all state regulated hunts. If the Department makes a determination to restrict or close a hunt, the taking an animal for a funeral or memorial potlach should be closed or restricted after all state regulated hunts have been closed or restricted.

In regard to and consideration to the Alaska Native People, who have a religious ceremonial right, please close hunting to Residents in Game Management Unit 20[B] to the harvesting of an antlerless moose.

Sincerely,

*Stacia Stickman*  
*for*  
*Linda Pete*

Linda Pete, Chair