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Submitted By Whey Bowerson Submitted On 3/3/2021 1:35:18 PM

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The inability for a hunting tag to be transferred to a next of kin or other family is a great injustice that is ongoing in our state. I suggest that the law which allows transfer of a hunting tag in the case of a 70% or higher disability be updated to include the ability to transfer a hunting tag to next of kin or immediate family who also submitted for the tag that year in the case of death.

Submitted By
Danielle Campoamor
Submitted On
3/4/2021 4:24:03 PM
Affiliation



PC21 1 of 1

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I am a born and raised Alaskan currently living in Brooklyn, NY. On Jan. 2, in the midst of an ongoing deadly pandemic clear across the country, I witnessed my family members grieve an unspeakable loss when my cousin, Chase Bowerson, was murdered. To hear the pain in my mother's voice -- the voice of a mom who heard, in real-time, the gutteral sobs of a mom in mourning over the senseless loss of her baby boy. I heard the pain in Kelly voice, Chase's mom, as she described her new reality: a split in time that has now given her the Before Chase, and After Chase.

And then I heard it again, when Chase's name was pulled for a controlled moose hunt tag and my family was told that Fish and Game, under Statute16.05.405, could not transfer the tag to an immediate family member. Chase's father and two brothers also put in tags. As fate would have it, none of their names were pulled.

While I am aware that legislation must be introduced and passed at the state legislative level, then signed into law by the governor in order to rectify this unnecessarily cruel statute, that does not mean that there is nothing the Board of Game can and, most importantly, should do.

I am requesting that the board give their fullthroated support to our ongoing attempts to chang this legislation. I am requestion that the board send a letter to the state senate urging them to bring legislation forward that will schange this statute. I am also requesting that this matter be discussed as soon as a meeting that includes public testimony occurs. I am also requesting that the board look into why Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, the agency that manages commercial fishing permits, has statutes regarding permit transfers upon the death of a permittee. They are under AS 16.43.180(b). Yet this statute exists and is currently harming not commercial fisheries, but bereaved Alaskan residents.

That Alaskans are facing a myriad issues at the moment is not lost on me or members of my family. As someone who lives in what at one point was the epicenter of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic — I get it. Alaskans are losing their jobs, their family members and loved ones, and struggling to pay rent and provide food for their families. They're isolated and alone; their mental health is suffering and alcohol and substance abuse is on the rise; instances of domestic and child abuse are growing exponentially. This is not lost on any of us.

But any law or statute, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, that causes unnecessary harm to bereaved people is wrong. And at a time when parents, especially working moms, are managing at-home e-learning while working from home and maintaining their homes; at a time when entrepreneurs are forced to pivot their business models and adjust to constantly changing safety regulations in order to keep people employed; when frontline health care workers are treating the ill while they simultaneously working to mitigate the chances of them bringing the plague home to their families — well, there's not a single person on the planet who can convince me those in positions of power cannot walk and chew gum at the same time.

Please help my family in a way I simply cannot. Please make sure that this does not harm another bereaved family again. Please put your full weight and voice behind our continued efforts to change this statute, to do what you can to bring awareness of this statute to the public, and to help my father honor my cousin by changing a statute that never should have existed in the first place.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing the Board get to work.

Submitted By
Teresa Campoamor
Submitted On
3/5/2021 7:36:17 AM
Affiliation

PC22 1 of 1

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Chase Bowerson, along with his father and two brothers, put in for a controller moose hunt tag, Chase was murdered January 2nd of this year. When Chase's name was pulled for that controlled moose hunt, the family was told that Fish and Game, under Statute16.05.405, could not transfer the tag to another family member, a family member that put in for the same exact hunt.

I am requesting that the board give their complete and full support to our attempts to change this legislation. I am requesting that the board send a letter to the State Senate urging them to bring legislation forward that will change this statute.

Any law/statute that causes more suffering to a family that has already suffered such a horrific loss, the death of a loved one, should be changed. Your support behind this effort, I believe, will have a significant impact on the attempt to get this law changed.

I expect more than your consideration to this matter, I expect your full support and action to get this law changed at the legislative level.

Thank you,



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Submitted By
Tye Chikigak-Steadman
Submitted On
3/5/2021 12:33:15 PM
Affiliation

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of support for the family of Chase Bowerson (deceased.) Recently I've been informed of a unique situation where Mr. Bowerson was drawn for an ADFG hunting tag. Unfortunately Chase recently passed away and the family wants to honor him by filling the hunting tag. By not allowing the transfer to an immediate family member I believe the family and the late Mr. Bowerson are being done a great disservice. Please allow the transfer or create a policy to handle this situation moving forward.

Sincerely, Tye Chikigak-Steadman





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Dear Fish and Game,

I lost a great buddy this year in a tragic way. Chase Bowerson was on those people that everyone should know and could learn from. He got his first tag this year for a moose and he was pumped. Now that he has passed, his brother or father want to get this moose for there loved one, it would be a great honor to a grieving family. Please change the regulations for future generations, if experience the same tradegy can fulfill there fallen loved ones Alaskan dream of a moose hunt. Please really consider how much this would mean to their family.

Submitted By Sierra Colbry Submitted On 3/4/2021 8:17:32 PM



Affiliation

My comment is in regards to hunting tags. If someone's name is pulled and they have passed, the tag should be given to their family member. The grieving family shouldn't be robbed from anymore than they already have. This issue needs to be fixed accordingly. Why is it right, you pull a name and not reward tag to the family of the recently deceased. If their name is pulled, and they are unable to physically use the tag (whether it's death or anything else), they reward it to the next immediate family member who is able to hunt. Do right.

Submitted By Bryson Corbett Submitted On 3/5/2021 8:45:38 AM



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I'm writing in support of a change or addition of policy regarding proxy hunting for game tags. Specifically, the change or addition to allow family members to inherit the drawn tag when the individual drawn is deceased.

Hunting and subsistence are foundations of Alaskan culture that predate modern governments. It's a sacred act of survival. Allowing drawn tags to be inherited by family will not only allow this tradition to continue, but it would give the family a unique opportunity to remember and memorialize the one who passed away.

I do not see an argument of why this change wouldn't be possible. The tag is drawn, the individual selected, the game marked for hunt. Currently, an individual may allow a proxy hunter with approval if they are Blind, Physically Disabled, 65 or older, or Developmentally Disabled. The addition of the beneficiary being deceased seems to be a logical addition.

With a Death Certificate, proof of familiar relationship, proof of proxy hunter's hunting license, and an agreement to transfer responsibility to go along with the authorization. I would believe that would be sufficient to provide a provisional proxy hunting tag.

I hope the Board considers this addition or change. It would benefit all Alaskans and help the family of the deceased grieve.

Submitted By Erik Duwe Submitted On 3/4/2021 6:04:53 PM Affiliation

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Dear Fish and Game Board Members,

I recently lost a brother of mine in an unfortunate event. He was an avid hunter and a steller part of his community. Hunting a moose was one of his goals, and, recentley his name was pulled for a moose tag. Regretably he is not with us to perform that Alaskan tradition, but his family is. They have inquired about recieving his tag in his stead but were told that transfers to immediate family from the deceased are not currenmtly allowed. i implore you to review this standard and to change it for the ours and future families benefit

Regards, Erik Duwe

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Submitted By
Christine Fekete
Submitted On
3/4/2021 5:05:06 PM
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Chase Bowerson was murdered and then received a moose liscence in the lottery. It is a travesty that his family could not use the pass.

Submitted By Maxine Fekete Submitted On 3/4/2021 5:09:07 PM



Affiliation

Chase Bowerson put in for a tag before he was murdered in January. His brothers and step father also put in but the board won't allow the tag to be transferred to them- which is a horrible policy. The tag should be able to be transferred to his family. Please right this wrong.