



Jim Simon

THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Boards Support Response to

Eagle AC Remote Public Testimony Proposal

Department of Fish and Game

RC09

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
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September 7, 2023

Ms. Karma Ulvi, Chair
Eagle Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 19
Eagle, AK 99738

Dear Chair Ulvi,

Thank you and the members of the Eagle Advisory Committee (AC) for discussing and submitting the enclosed proposal to the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (Joint Board) for consideration at the meeting scheduled for March 2024.

The proposal asks the Joint Board to adopt a law that would require future Boards of Game and Boards of Fisheries to follow administrative procedures that the Joint Board finds advisable at present. This is a purely administrative issue that does not require the consideration of both boards. Each Board may choose, as a matter of policy and within certain parameters, to allow remote testimony, but the Joint Board has no authority to adopt a law requiring it in the future. Moreover, the proposal would be in conflict with the Department of Fish and Game's administrative and fiscal authority by requiring a procedure that may significantly increase meeting durations and costs. Based on these reasons, the proposal will not be included in the Joint Board proposal book. It will be shared with the Joint Board members and Department of Fish and Game leadership for their information along with the reason it was not included in the book.

On behalf of the Joint Board, I thank you and the AC members for participating in Alaska's fish and game regulatory process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristy Tibbles".

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Enclosure

cc: Kyle Campbell, Regional Coordinator-Interior Region

Boards Proposal: All Details

Filing Details

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Management Unit or Area:

Regulation Book Page Number:

Predefined Topic(s):

Write-in Topic:

Residency Status:

Meeting: None

AAC Number: 5 AAC: 96.610 (e)

Issue

Require the Board of Game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Joint Board to allow members of the public to provide oral testimony remotely during regulatory meetings.

During the 2021-2022 regulatory cycle, both the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game allowed the public to provide oral testimony remotely but did not during the 2022-2023 regulatory cycle. The high costs of travel to attend board meetings in person presents a barrier to members of the public wishing to provide oral testimony on proposals that affect their livelihoods, effectively disenfranchising individuals and communities that cannot afford to attend meetings in person while amplifying the voices of those with enough money to send representatives to lobby the board members. The 2021-2022 cycle demonstrated that the department has the capability to successfully include remote testimony during board meetings, and this proposal seeks to codify that practice into regulation.

Proposed Solution

Amend 5 AAC: 96.610 (e) as follows:

Phase 4. Each board will give legal notice of timely received proposals. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), each board will hold a public hearing **and solicit oral testimony, both in-person and remotely**, and will act on proposals or develop alternatives on the subject matter legally noticed. The final decision on all proposals remains the responsibility of a board.

Submitter Details

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