

Sara Olbright

Public Comment in Opposition to RC009 (Emergency Regulation)

I am writing to strongly oppose the State's proposed emergency regulation, RC009, related to the bear program. This regulation should not be classified as an "emergency" as no genuine emergency exists. The bear program was previously found to be unlawful because it was implemented without providing the public a proper opportunity to comment, and the State failed to assess the potential impacts of the program on bear populations.

Since the ruling that the program is unlawful, no meaningful changes have been made to address the concerns that led to this finding. The State has still not provided adequate information on the bear population or the long-term consequences of this program on bear behavior, health, and the broader ecosystem. This lack of transparency is deeply troubling and indicates that the program's continuation is not based on sound scientific data or public input.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize the lack of public notice regarding this process. The proposal for emergency regulations was not made available at the start of this meeting. Instead, it was only announced verbally, which denies the public the opportunity to thoroughly review and respond to this critical issue. Such a process undermines the principles of transparency and public participation in state decision-making.

For these reasons, I urge the State to reconsider the implementation of RC009 and ensure that any future decisions regarding the bear program are based on solid, scientifically-backed information and involve proper public engagement. Thank you for considering my comments.