

RC28

Christopher O'Brien

Proposition 28

Dear members of the board,

I write to you today in support of Proposition 28.

As an avid participant in our great states harvesting of big game animals, I would like nothing more than to see a profound sense of reasonableness brought into the hunting regulations and guidelines. In particular, Proposition 28 touches on the current regulations, 5AAC92.044, which allows the use of bait to take black bears statewide under the authority of a permit issued by ADF&G. 5AAC92.044(b)(5), which restricts the proximity to certain, roads, residences, campsites, recreation areas, and trails, that bait stations may be placed. Under the present regulations, bear baiting is "technically" legal in GMU 1C, however a hunter cannot legally do so since ADF&G refuses to issue a permit for this area.

Understandably, this creates a sort of gray area with the hunters in Unit 1C, as in the hunt would be legal in regards to the hunting regulations, and consequently illegal considering they cannot receive a permit from the ADF&G.

With the large majority of bear hunting in Southeast Alaska being conducted via boat in Springtime, I feel the use of legal, safe & responsible bear baiting from the Juneau area road system and main land proper would allow a wider range of hunters to exercise their privilege to hunt black bear.

Ultimately I hope the Board of Game can realise the multiple benefits of Proposition 28, in allowing hunters without boats, archery hunters, and hunters that are primarily looking to sustain their families with a quality animal the opportunity to legally harvest black bear the way the majority of the state continues to.