

Good Afternoon

RC 34

My name is Franklin John, ~~Good morning~~ board members and staff. I'm from Mentasta, but live in Tazlina for 20 years. I want to testify on proposal 44.

I would like to see the state enforce the community hunt report based on the 8 criteria. Having a bbq in your back yard to me isn't the same as sharing under our custom and tradition. Sharing to me is making sure elders and single mothers have meat for the winter in the community.

Require the reports to be filled out in detail by all groups based on the 8 criteria and use the reports to eliminate those groups not following the criteria. Make it a requirement for all groups or else they aren't eligible for next year.

New groups, make sure they are real subsistence communities and not just taking advantage of the program and abusing the system, abusing the definition of subsistence. We do not use the word subsistence, to use that means just getting by. We refer to our way of life as Customary and Traditional, by that we mean it's a way of life we have practiced for thousands of years and has been passed down to us from our ancestors. It is a way of life that means we live in this land, take care of this land, and the animals that we rely on to feed us. To us subsistence is not driving up for the weekend in a huge mobile home. Its not a past time. Its not a vacation. For us our Customary and Traditional Use is our life. We teach our youth. I have my little grandkids go with me when I hunt. They are

learning and I am passing down the knowledge I learned from my mom and dad.

We have a strong traditional way, ~~onggi~~, that we take the moose that presents itself to us, not let that one go for another with bigger or smaller antlers. This is our belief and the way we hunt.