

**Alaska Board of Game
Statewide Meeting
November 10-17, 2017
Lakefront Anchorage**

RC 049

Tesitmony of Arnold Demoski

My name is Arnold Demoski. I am Koyukon Athaabascan from the village of Nulato. I serve on the Nulato Tribal Council, the Middle Yukon AC, and am a commissioner on the Yukon River Inter Tribal Fish Commission. Here I am representing myself.

I oppose proposal 14 and 15. Eliminating a long standing customary and traditional harvesting practice is wrong. Taking away our food source is wrong. This traditional knowledge has been passed on for generations and generations. It will be wrong to take this practice away and only leave it for stories to be told to younger generations.

Our ancestors have had a very strong connection with animals and we do to this day. We do not disrespect animals of any kind. I oppose proposal 14 and 15.

I oppose Proposal 55. Funerals are hard times for my family. This proposal will provide an additional burden on an already burdensome time of preparing to lay a family member to rest. Taking away our traditional religious practices without involving our Alaska Native People is not right. We are federally recognized tribes. We have the right for government to government consultation. Give our people, our elders, a chance to speak, come to our villages, following your own government to government policy.

We have stickdance in Kaltag and Nulato every other year. This traditional ceremony is very strong to our people. Every culture has different ways of doing things. It'll be wrong to centralize our ceremonies that this proposal is asking.

We never get a moose without letting our Area Biologist know. He is the first to know that we need a moose for funerals or other traditional ceremonies. We have a strong relationship with our area biologist. He knows we don't illegally take moose for those religious ceremonies. I oppose Proposal 55.