



PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: February 25th, 2020

RE: **Testimony on 2019 Senate Bill 762**

TO: The Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

Thank you to Chairman Tiffany and members of the committee for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 762 (SB 762).

Current law stipulates that the DNR must issue two certificates for Class A bear hunting licenses to the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association, Inc. One certificate is awarded to the winner of a raffle, and the other goes to the highest bidder at a public auction. Currently, an individual may only win one auction in a lifetime.

Stakeholders have indicated that the bidding on this certificate generally only attracts a small pool of dedicated individuals, and preventing previous winners from participating only artificially deflates the value of the certificates. Thus, SB 762 enables bidders to potentially win the certificate more than one time.

Please join me in supporting this legislation.



Romaine Quinn

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 75th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

February 25, 2020

Chairman Tiffany and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 762, which impacts how certain bear hunting tags are distributed.

Under current law, DNR is required to issue two certificates for bear hunting licenses to the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association. The Association raffles off one tag and auctions the second, with no one being allowed to win more than one tag in his or her lifetime.

The raffle, and especially the auction, raise significant funds for the charitable foundation run by the Bear Hunters, as hunters from across the region drive up the bids. However, the bidders are often a small group of frequent hunters. And currently, there is a danger that if each of the bidders can only win one tag in a lifetime, there will soon be no one left to bid at all.

When DNR recently upgraded its tracking system, it was discovered that the same few people may be winning the tag multiple times. And because the group of bidders is fairly small, each person who is permanently taken out of the pool represents a significant potential decrease in the final bid price, which means a loss of good the Bear Hunters' charitable foundation can do.

SB 762 removes the "once in a lifetime" rule, allowing a person to win a tag more than once. This will keep the pool of bidders large and continue to support the Bear Hunters in their good works, without compromising anyone's ability to join the raffle or the bid. I believe this will be a positive step for Wisconsin's hunting community, and hope you will support this simple correction.

Thank you for hearing this bill.