

William J. O'Brien
3281 Katie Court
Arden Hills, MN 55112

July 17, 2012

Mr. Chris Petersen
South Dakota Game Fish & Parks Director
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

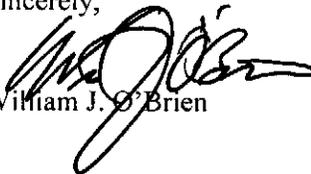
Dear Director Petersen:

I am a non-resident hunter who has annually visited the State of South Dakota for the last 26 years. I have had the privilege of hunting throughout those years for all kinds of wildlife. I have purchased non-resident deer, waterfowl, turkey, pheasant and fishing licenses for most of these years. The purchase of non-resident waterfowl licenses has been limited over the years by the lottery system, and on those years where I have been successful in the annual lottery, the duck hunting success has been, at best, poor for the last 7-8 years. I hunt along the Missouri River in Charles Mix County in a location which seems to be subject to later and later arrivals of ducks from the north. Quite often the ducks show up on the last week of the season or after the season is closed, which basically prohibits me and many others who visit your State from having any successful hunts. In fact, I purchase licenses for my 18 year old and 16 year old sons (who have also hunted with me for as long they have been able to hunt) and quite a lot of money has been spent on out-of-state licenses. My children have also shared the frustration of having an expensive non-resident license without any benefit of shooting at ducks.

I write to you with a request for you to consider changing the Low Plains South season to match the High Plains season adopted for the western part of South Dakota. Although the licensed non-resident hunters in the Low Plains South is for the entire waterfowl season, the season just does not match with the late season arrival of ducks. A change of the dates would enable local residents to have a successful hunt for local ducks when present, for a few days at the start of the season, and for the rest of the hunters who are lucky enough to have a license to hunt waterfowl in your state to have a better chance at success through a later season for ducks. I therefore encourage you at your upcoming meetings for setting the season to consider this request to change the duck season and provide for a split season for the Low Plains South along the Missouri River in the southwest corner of the State.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



William J. O'Brien

cc: Jeff Vonk, Secretary
Commissioner Jim Spies
Commissioner Jeff Olson
Commissioner Susie Knippling
Commissioner John Cooper
Commissioner Barry Jensen
Commissioner Cathy Peterson
Commissioner Bill Cerny
Commissioner Duane Sather

Subject: Comment - muzzleloaders - Scott Jamison

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Jamison

Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 8:56 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comment

Hi, I would like to comment on two of the below proposals and thanks for the opportunity. I am strongly in favor of allowing zero magnification scopes on muzzleloaders. Although I haven't yet been lucky enough to draw a tag, I hope to in the future. I really haven't used open sights on any rifle since I was a kid and using something with a dot or crosshairs would make me much more accurate and thus much less likely to wound a deer.

I am also strongly in favor of allowing small game hunters to accompany deer hunters. There are very few weekends to hunt deer and pheasants with family members, and this would give the opportunity more often. It's very difficult for me and my two sons to all draw deer tags in the same season and this way they can at least get an opportunity to come with me a few days and pheasant hunt; or vice versa.

Thank you, Scott Jamison 6636 Lenola Heights Wentworth SD 57075 605-270-1869

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 7:57 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Switzer, Chad
Subject: FW: Canada Goose season

-----Original Message-----

From: Neal & Jan Pearson [mailto:njpearson@venturecomm.net]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 4:48 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Canada Goose season

Dear Commissoners; In regards to the early season it would be a great benefit to all hunters if locker plants could process them without having a wing attached. Most are breasted out and they can be made into a lot of different kind of products. If this is already possible ,then the hunters need to know that it alright. Thanks for your consideration of this proposal . Sincerely
Neal W Pearson Lake City SD

Subject: Comment - muzzelloader restrictions - Bill De Lay

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Wednesday, July 25, 2012 7:01 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy
Subject: FW: muzzelloader restrictions

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill DeLay
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2012 4:40 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: muzzelloader restrictions

I think the proposed recommendations for modifying muzzeloeader restrictions are a very good idea as the need is there and the time is now. As a over 50 sportsman with eyes in the bifocal range it would be much more ethical to allow the use of better sighting systems for much more accurate shot placement in the takeing of game. This would be better for the deer and the hunter allowing more to hunt longer in life and still ethically kill game. I have actually discussed this with my local gamewarden in the past and am glad to see the commission is considering these proposals.

Thank You Bill De Lay 27606 455th Ave. Parker SD.

Subject: Comment - muzzle loader - Skip Tiiisch

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 8:02 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Chane in muzzle loader restrictions

-----Original Message-----

From: Skip Tillisch
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2012 7:28 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Chane in muzzle loader restrictions

Dear Commission members:

I am in favor of allowing the use of non-magnifying optics on muzzle loading rifles, and urge your support of the proposed change.

I am sixty-eight years old and did not hunt with my muzzle loader last year. Like most senior citizens, I could no longer see the sights clearly enough to make sure of making a killing shot. Presbyopia is a visual condition caused by hardening of the crystalline in the eye due to aging. This loss of variable focus power makes it difficult, if not impossible, to clearly see the rear sight, the front sight, and the target at the same time. A blurred sight picture makes it more difficult to make a clean kill.

Allowing the use of non-magnifying optics will allow me to hunt with my muzzle loader again, and reduce the number of wounded animals.

Sincerely,
Skip Tillisch
12066 Deerfield Road
Hill City, SD 57745
605-574-4748

To: Schlueter, Chuck
Cc: Alban, Andy; Leif, Tony (Tony.Leif@state.sd.us); Kirschenmann, Tom
Subject: Comment - muzzleloader - Christ Mayer

Commissioners:

I received a phone call this morning from Mr. Christ Mayer of Rapid City, SD, indicating his support for the proposed changes for sights during the Muzzleloader season.

Debra Ascher, Executive Secretary
SD Game, Fish, and Parks
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605.773.3718
Debra.ascher@state.sd.us

Subject: Comment - muzzleloader - Craig Chilson

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:03 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: ML Rifle rules

-----Original Message-----

From: Craig Chilson
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 12:34 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: ML Rifle rules
Good afternoon.

In my view you are going in the wrong direction with muzzleloader rules. I believe this should be a primitive hunt and would support only black powder with patched round ball's or even patched round ball and flintlock only. For the record I do not own a flintlock and I do own an inline.

Thank you,

Craig Chilson Rapid City

Subject: Comment - Muzzleloader - Greg Fuller

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 7:58 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Proposed Muzzleloader Changes

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Fuller
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 7:21 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Proposed Muzzleloader Changes

I would like to go on record as supporting the changes as proposed. I am particularly supportive of allowing peep sites.

Sincerely,

Greg Fuller
116 Hollowood Trail
Fort Pierre, SD 57532

Subject: Comment - Muzzleloader - John Grenz

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2012 2:34 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Keyser, Emmett; Alban, Andy
Subject: FW: Muzzleloader rule changes

-----Original Message-----

From: John Grenz
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 2:20 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Muzzleloader rule changes

About time! Anyone with bifocals can't see open sights clearly. Usually both front and rear sights are out of focus. Time for scopes and red dot type optics. Muzzleloader season isn't supposed to be just for people with 20/20 vision! My .02 cents.

John Grenz
135 River Road
Pierre, SD 57501

Subject: FW: Muzzleloader changes

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2012 2:30 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Muzzleloader changes

-----Original Message-----

From: Hanger, Richard
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 3:44 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Muzzleloader changes
GFP commission,

Sirs,

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the muzzleloader season requirements. My concern lies with the possible changes in which type of sights are allowed. I feel that peep sights should be allowed. I think everyone would agree that a peep sight, while not considered an open sight, would still fall within the class of iron sights. Peep sights were commonly used on muzzleloaders throughout history. I do feel however that the modern sights such as red dots or holographic sights even without magnification fall outside the realm of what a muzzleloader season is all about, getting back to basics. The muzzleloader season was established and has been a season for hunters who wish to take on the challenges a muzzleloader requires. ie- intimacy with your equipment and your quarry.

Hunters wishing to use the more modern muzzleloader and optics certainly can do so during the regular firearms season. There is far too much emphasis in the hunting community these days on filling your tag from as far away as possible. The hunters in this state and the Game Fish and Parks have traditionally favored responsible and ethical hunting. Let's keep it that way. For those that wish to bag a deer at distance with a muzzleloader, let them do it during the regular season. Nothing prevents them from doing that. Please leave the current muzzleloader season as primitive. If not there will be a large influx of scoped up hunters in this season. I believe this may result in more wounded deer as hunters try to shoot at longer ranges because they can see better, but the ballistics of the weapons are not quite up to the optics.

Thanks for listening

Rick Hanger
6217 w 60th st
Sioux Falls SD 57106
605-361-2848
hangfire49@sio.midco.net

Subject: Comment - muzzleloader - Scott O'Donnell

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott O'Donnell [mailto:scot.odomhnaill@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 11:32 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments regrading Amending 41:06:04:14

Regarding the proposed amendments to section 41:06:04:14; I support the proposed amendment to allow for sights to muzzleloaders, such as red-dot sights with no magnification. I feel that this type of sighting system would allow for better shot placement, thus allowing the potential for a cleaner kill and less suffering on the animal.

Respectfully submitted.

Thank you for your time.

Scott O'Donnell
224 Georgia Ave
LaBolt, SD 57246

Subject: Comment - Muzzleloader - Tim Millburn

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 8:46 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Muzzleloader changes

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2012 5:47 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Muzzleloader changes

Members of the commission, In regards to the proposed muzzleloader changes.I'm all for it! Peep or aperature sights have been on muzzleloaders almost since their invention.The new "no magnification" optics are a boon for those of us with aging eyesight. Substitute powders in granular form are no quicker to load than real blackpowder. With these few adavances you still must load from the muzzle end and one shot kills are still the attainable goal. Please adopt these new rules,Thank You,

Tim Millburn Rapid City

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 7:58 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Muzzleloader restriction

-----Original Message-----

From: gene cox [mailto:bosscox2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 5:20 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Muzzleloader restriction

I feel that muzzle loader hunting is just that...a chance to step back into yesteryear and experience that type of hunt. As far as an "Advancement in muzzle loading technology" That is the modern hunting rifle. Since you are using the "past" to hunt with let us keep that spirit as well. I would not support the use of optics with the exception of the "peep" sight as those have been around for some time and offer optical advantage nor do I support the use of smokeless powders. Black powder or Black powder substitute only.

Thank You,

Gene Cox
614 1st Ave E
Mobridge SD 57601

Subject: Comment - muzzleloaders - Scott Jamison

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Sunday, July 15, 2012 2:38 PM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Alban, Andy; Keyser, Emmett
Subject: FW: Comment

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Jamison
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 8:56 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: Comment

Hi, I would like to comment on two of the below proposals and thanks for the opportunity. I am strongly in favor of allowing zero magnification scopes on muzzleloaders. Although I haven't yet been lucky enough to draw a tag, I hope to in the future. I really haven't used open sights on any rifle since I was a kid and using something with a dot or crosshairs would make me much more accurate and thus much less likely to wound a deer. I am also strongly in favor of allowing small game hunters to accompany deer hunters. There are very few weekends to hunt deer and pheasants with family members, and this would give the opportunity more often. It's very difficult for me and my two sons to all draw deer tags in the same season and this way they can at least get an opportunity to come with me a few days and pheasant hunt; or vice versa.
Thank you, Scott Jamison 6636 Lenola Heights Wentworth SD 57075 605-270-1869

Subject: Comments - Muzzleloading - Greg Olsen

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Olsen [mailto:cwshiloh@sio.midco.net]

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 10:26 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: Comments on the Muzzleloading Recommended Changes

Hi -

My name is Greg Olsen. I live at 4300 South Chicago Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, 57103

Two comments on the proposed muzzleloading changes. First, I am opposed to the use of telescopic and peep sites. Secondly, I am also opposed to the use of smokeless powder. Hunting with muzzleloading firearms is about tradition. Yes, I can agree that the use of the proposed sites would insure a better quality shot, however, I believe in the use of skilled hunting techniques which I view as a "lost art" when it comes to hunting in general. There are enough rifles and scopes to go around during those seasons. Please consider leaving the muzzleloading season as an historical approach to hunting. Vote no on the use of telescopic sites and the use of smokeless powder.

Thank you.

Greg Olsen, Sioux Falls

Subject: Comment - trapping - Kevin Parmely

-----Original Message-----

From: Spies, Jim

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 1:15 PM

To: Ascher, Debra

Subject: FW: Testimony for commission meeting in Milbank, SD

-----Original Message-----

From: jolynn [mailto:kjparmely@santel.net]

Sent: Mon 7/30/2012 10:18 AM

To: Spies, Jim; beatis@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP)

Subject: Testimony for commission meeting in Milbank, SD

To the SD Game, Fish, and Parks Commissioners:

After attending and testifying before the rules review committee meeting on 7/10/2012 I still have concerns and opposition to the way the proposed rule change for the Body Grip Trap Restrictions 41:08:02:06 is written. As per the directive given by the rules review committee the rule was rejected and sent back because it was too confusing and it was stated that it needed to be crystal clear. The Game Fish and Parks have not changed anything in the writing of the rule as far as I can tell. It is still very confusing and leaves open a lot of grey area allowing for different interpretations of the rule as written. This proposed rule needs to be killed.

The proposed rule for the restrictions on colony traps 41:08:02:08 has been rewritten since the rule review meeting and is very well written and is crystal clear now.

I respectfully request that you would take the time to listen to the audio of the meeting so that you will be aware of the confusion that this proposed rule change is creating not only to the trappers but to the Game Fish and Parks as well when questioned about it.

I have attached a link to the audio recording from the Rules Review meeting of 7/10/2012 concerning the rules as listed below:

41:08:02:06 Body Grip Trap Restrictions

41:08:02:08 Restrictions on Colony trap

<http://www.sdpb.org/Statehouse/default.aspx>

Open the window for the meeting dated 7/10/2012 - it is audio only - scroll to about 2 Hrs and 15 min - 2:15 - they will begin talking about all of the Fur bearing issues and it runs for right at an hour till they are done. This will keep you from having to listen to the whole meeting and allow you to just listen to the testimony concerning the above proposed rule changes.

Please, please take the time to listen to this audio. The body grip trap is the most important tool in harvesting, coons, skunks, possums and badgers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully, Kevin Parmely

21568 401st Ave, Huron, SD 57350 Phone: 605-354-1733

Subject: Comment - Trapping - Brian Reynolds 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian R***** [mailto:acsfea@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 1:22 PM

To: Spies, Jim; beatis@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy; jlcoop11@aol.com; Sather, Duane; bpcerny@gwtc.net; Glodt, Jason; Vonk, Jeff; GFP Wild Info

Subject: input for opposition to trapping restrictions.

For a long time now I have watched as our trapping rights have been restricted and whittled away one by one. I've always wondered why. Why was the Wildlife Division doing this to us? Why was the Wildlife Division so concerned about the size of traps we can use, when we can set our traps, and where we can set our traps. I always had a suspicion that there was an Animal Rights Activist behind all of this because there has seemed to a systematic approach to degrading our trapping rights.

I never really had any proof that there was an AR Activist behind all of this until this body grip restriction came up. This body grip restriction says right on the proposal that this restriction should greatly reduce the chances that a dog will be killed. Seems innocent and seems like the right thing to do, correct?

Not so fast. What the Wildlife Division is saying in this proposal is that they are concerned about the welfare of dogs (which are a domestic animal) and that they want a rule to protect and provide for the welfare and safety of these hunting dogs. Since a hunting dog is an animal, the Wildlife division is saying that they are trying to provide for the welfare of animals.

I am not sure if anyone here knows it or not but Animal Welfarism is a form of Animal Rights. And by taking action to implement animal welfare rules the Wildlife division has now shown themselves to be an Animal Welfarism Activist Group or more simply an AR Activist Group. There is no other term or definition to describe this.

Pretty scary isn't it? Our Wildlife division by their own words and actions is shown to be an animal rights activist group. But it gets worse. This commission agreed with the Wildlife division that the welfare of hunting dogs should be provided for by passing a rule to protect these hunting dogs. The commission therefore took action to provide for the welfare of animals, which again is a form of Animal Rights Activism.

Right under our noses the Animal Rights Activists infiltrated the Wildlife Division and the GFP Commission. That is really scary isn't it?

A dog is a coyote, is a skunk, is a muskrat, is a rat, is a mouse. All are animals. If one is given protection or rights all must be given protection or rights. A dog is no more conscious of its thoughts or its existence than is a coyote, skunk, or a mouse. There is nothing special about a dog to give them more rights or offer them more protection than the rest of God's creatures.

The only thing different is that dogs are property and are pets just like cats, hamsters, pot bellied pigs, turtles, snakes, skunks, raccoons, fox, and even coyotes may be pets. These pets belong to and are the property of the owner of the animals. Dogs are property just like cattle are property. The owner of the animals which are considered property is responsible for them, no one else is. Cattlemen are responsible for feeding, watering, and keeping their cattle out of harms way, no one else is. Likewise dog owners are responsible for feeding, watering, and keeping their dogs out of harms way, no one else is, especially not the Wildlife division.

We can debate the philosophy of animal rights all day long and we would still probably never come to a complete agreement as to what is right and wrong.

However I believe it is completely inappropriate for anyone in the Wildlife Division or on this commission to come out in support of animal welfare or animal rights in any form. This is dangerous territory and if this rule is allowed to pass it will set an unwanted precedent and will be a victory for PETA, HSUS, the Sierra Club, and other animal rights groups. They will make the argument that if it is appropriate for the state to provide for the welfare of hunting dogs it as

also appropriate for the state to provide for the protection and welfare of coyotes, skunks, pheasants, muskrats, rats, and mice because they all are animals and they all deserve equal protection.

I think it is inappropriate for this decision to be made or even considered at this level of government. If you proceed I believe that you will be opening Pandora's box with unknown consequences to follow and you will open yourselves up to criticism for being an animal rights activist or supporter. As the commission you are supposed to defend our rights to hunt, fish, trap, and harvest wildlife. You should not be supportive of the methods or means by which the wildlife division is attempting to restrict our rights by rule.

Please reject this proposal and defer this decision to the legislature.

Thank you,

Brian Reynolds, Monroe SD

Subject: Comment - Brian Reynolds - trapping
Attachments: gfp august 2 commission meeting.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian R***** [mailto:acsfea@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 8:35 AM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: opposition to body grip restriction

Please include the attachment as evidence to reject the body grip trap restriction. The wildlife division has failed to show that the majority of our pheasant , trappers, or ag producers support the restriction. In addition we have legislative mandates which this restriction violates.

Brian Reynolds

Monroe, SD

Subject: comment - trapping - Myron E Simons

-----Original Message-----

From: Simons, Myron

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 7:53 PM

To: GFP Wild Info

Subject: 41:08:02:06 Body grip trap restrictions

Sirs,

I am writing not to argue the 7 inch setback in cubbys, but to question the wording in paragraph 2. In reading paragraph 2, it clearly states that a body grip (36 sq. in. +) used in conjunction with bait must be recessed. It does not address in or out of water. This seems to me to make a castor mound set with a 330 illegal, or, even an under ice set with a poplar branch for bait on a 330 illegal as well. This would greatly restrict the taking of beaver.

The next question I would like to ask is about the 36 sq. inch opening. Is it your intention to make #160 conibears subject to the 7" setback also? I have 2 different brands of #160s, and each has at least one measurement in excess of 6". This is because of the scissor action of the jaws, one has to fit inside the other. It would be a shame for an over zealous Conservation Officer to issue citations because your intent was not clearly stated. Please give consideration to adding more clarity to this rule.

Thank You
Myron E. Simons
Huron, SD
350-0003

Subject: Comment - trapping - Reynolds

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 8:36 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Fisk, Keith; Alban, Andy
Subject: FW: Input for August 2 commission meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian R*****
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Spies, Jim; beatis@aol.com; Knippling, Susie (GFP); barryj@gwtc.net; Peterson, Cathy; jlcoop11@aol.com; Sather, Duane; bpcerny@gwtc.net; Glodt, Jason; Vonk, Jeff; GFP Wild Info
Subject: Input for August 2 commission meeting
Members of the commission, Sec Vonk, and other interested parties,

Today (August 2, 2012) we are going to hear some more input about the trapping restrictions that the wildlife division proposed back in May. The commission let these proposals on trapping restrictions proceed to see if the support could be generated for them. The support did not come in.

Only 0.01% (that is one hundredth of 1%) of our pheasant hunters supported the body grip restriction. And I am aware of only 1 trapper out of 3,000+ trappers that supported either the colony trap proposal, the sunrise start of mink trapping proposal, or the sunrise start of trap placement proposal.

Yet in spite of the lack of public support the wildlife division still supported the restrictions and was able to advance them through the finalization process just based on someones opinion. I did not hear anyone say that the proposals should be rejected because of the lack of public support for them.

When our trappers were seeking a restriction on NR muskrat trapping in the spring the commission asked us to provide the evidence that the majority of our trappers supported the restriction, and we did so.

Now that that the Wildlife Division is asking for trapping restrictions I think it is only fair that we should demand the same from them, they should provide the evidence that the majority of our hunters, trappers, land owners, and ag producers support these restrictions. If they can not provide the proof, their proposals should be rejected.

It seems to me that the wildlife divisions motivation was to push these proposals through the process with or without the supporting data. It also appears to me that their motivation was to promote their own interests and agendas, and not to best serve the interests of our trappers, hunters, or ag producers.

In addition we saw first hand how the wildlife division reworded the proposed colony trap rule after it was finalized by the commission to include a restriction on the size of square colony traps that was not even mentioned in the proposal process.

Luckily we were able to intercept these restrictions at the Interim Rules Committee where the committee unanimously agreed that these restrictions needed to be rejected and sent them

back. We sent back only two of these restrictions that were of primary concern to us. We could have sent the whole package back, and I believe that we should have.

These trapping restrictions effect our ability to earn income and sustain a livelihood for our families. Trappers trap to make money so that they can pay their bills and put food on the table. Ag producers trap to protect their crops and livestock so that their commodities can be sold to generate an income for their families. This is the way things have been done for hundreds of years, this is our way of life, and this is the way things should remain. Our trappers and ag producers were here long before the fist pheasant ever arrived and I am doing my best to make sure that they will still be here after the last pheasant has been shot.

For these restrictions to be put in place without even considering how they will impact our livelihood is absurd. And it is equally absurd for this commission to hear public input on a Wednesday and make their decision on a Thursday on an issue that effects anyone's livelihood. At the very least their needs to be much more time taken to allow for an independent review of the data, an independent verification of the data, and for an independent consultation with all impacted parties regarding the effects of a trapping rule change. And I think Sec Vonk is absolutely, dead center on target, correct in asking for an independent review of the Wildlife division and of our current process by which we approve their rules.

Neither this commission nor our wildlife division should have any right to impact our ability to provide for our families. These decisions are far too important to be considered at this level and they are in fact for the Legislature to consider, where our interests, our livelihood, and our way of life will be honored and protected.

If we as trappers desire any further changes we will bring those concerns directly to your attention or to the attention of our legislators because quite frankly we no longer trust the wildlife division to act in our best interest or to preserve our heritage, our way of life, or our livelihood.

For these reasons I ask that the commission reject all the current trapping proposals before them today. I also ask that the commission reject any further trapping restrictions that may come before them in the future that may effect our ability to earn a livelihood, and also to repeal all existing rules that undermine our ability to earn a livelihood either as an ag producer or as a trapper.

Thank you.

Brian Reynolds
Monroe, SD.

Subject: Comment - trapping prohibitions - Jim Gruber

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2012 8:25 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Fisk, Keith; Alban, Andy
Subject: FW: trapping prohibitions

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Gruber
Sent: Saturday, July 28, 2012 4:50 PM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: trapping prohibitions

in response to the proposed 7 inch inset of connibear traps in buckets is ridiculous... first off how does a dog know what the 7 inch limit is? take a sheet of paper, it is 8 inches wide.. now measure the average lenth of a lab from nose to eyes.... and tell me this is going to stop the dog from getting hurt or killed...

all body grip traps should be allowed only in underwater sets.. or at an elevation of 5 feet above the ground.. to do anything else is not going to help.

i personally found two of the devises at a wildlife area this past fall... both within 50 yds of the parking area.. one in an old culvert entrance, and another just off the trail... i was lucky enough to stop my lab on both occurances...and again no name on the traps... these things are all over, and just about everywhere there is water or mud at a culverts entrance.. they are deadly to dogs and cattle...

i personally know of one neighbor that lost a 200 lb. calf to one... they animal starved to death... with a connibear over its mouth...

i love trapping as much as anyone, but these things are not the way to go... buckets only attract dogs, cattle, and all dometic animals from scent and curiosity... and 7 inches is not going to do anything worth while.. submerged or above the ground is the only way to go.....

jim gruber 320 2498466 148 sunset park drive, Estelline, s.d 57234 605 873 2017

Subject: FW: proposed trap restrictions

From: Schlueter, Chuck
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 8:24 AM
To: Ascher, Debra
Cc: Fisk, Keith; Alban, Andy
Subject: FW: proposed trap restrictions

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Rieck
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 8:17 AM
To: GFP Wild Info
Subject: proposed trap restrictions
Proposed change 41:08:02:08 is acceptable as written.

Proposed change 41:08:02:06 is not acceptable. It would eliminate all 330 beaver trapping under ice, and all beaver trapping in water. I feel it needs to be better thought out on restrictions. I would recommend that it not pass as proposed.

Diane Rieck
201 E 2nd Ave
Humboldt, SD 57035

Western South Dakota Fur Harvesters Association**PO box 25****Hot Springs SD 57747**

July 19, 2012

Dear South Dakota GF&P Commissioners,

Our organization would like to inform you that we support the SD GF&P proposed change of 220 Conibear trapping on public land and road right of ways.

Our membership consist of trappers, predator callers and fur hunters from western South Dakota.

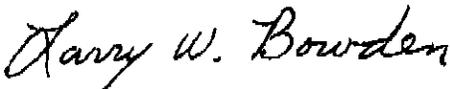
The proposal would require all baited trap boxes to have conibear traps recessed a minimum of seven inches inside the baited box. This proposed change would be valid on public land and road right of ways only. Private land 220 conibear trapping would not be affected by this change.

We were first aware of this at last Aprils meeting with SD GF&P personal about proposed trapping regulation changes. Early discussions were to apply to east river only.

Our organization suggested that it be a state wide change. We want to avoid incidental catches. For trappers to modify our trap boxes would be a minor inconvenience if it will help avoid non target catches. Research data from other states support this change.

We feel that this change is in the best interest of trappers and other individuals who use public lands.

Sincerely,



Larry W. Bowden

President WSDFHA