

Amy Rostkowycz

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Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Amy Rostkowycz
Subject: HR 5558

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I believe HR 5558 is a good first step in the regulation of hunting guides but more needs to be done and suggest an amendment be included to address the following:

#10 states: "Commercial hunting guide" means an individual who, for a fee or other consideration of value, provides assistance to another individual in hunting game.... (b) "Consideration of value" means an economic benefit, inducement, right, or profit, including monetary payment accruing to an individual or person. Consideration of value does not include a voluntary sharing of the actual expenses of the guiding activity by monetary contribution or donation of fuel, food, beverages, or other supplies.

It isn't clear if this also means those who bait for hunters. I live in the Western U.P. where, it is common for "locals" to maintain bait stations for downstate hunters sometimes for cash, sometimes beer, sometimes "you can use my camp", sometimes for free. I think the bill should omit "for a fee or other consideration of value". **Anyone providing assistance, including baiting, should be considered a "guide"**

The bill is silent on the use of bait. Currently, guides can put out an unrestricted amount of bait. See page 14 of guide https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Bear_Hunting_Digest_454168_7.pdf
LEGAL BAITS THAT MAY BE USED AT ANY LOCATION IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES: Meat and meat products, including dog food; Fish and fish products, including cat food; and Bakery/confectionery products, including jams, jellies, sweeteners, candies, and other cooked or commercially processed products such as pie filling, yogurts or granola.

This gives a great advantage to commercial guides who receive semi truck loads of bait to be distributed and dumped in our woods. Further on Page 15 of the guide, it states, "It is unlawful for any licensed bear hunter or his/her designee to establish or tend more than three bait stations per hunter. In addition, **it is unlawful for any person to establish or tend more than a total of 12 bait stations.**"

With this amount of baiting, there is essentially no regulation as Conservation Officers have no way of knowing which bait station belongs to whom. Commercial guides routinely have helpers (family members, HS kids, employees) tend bait stations and each can tend up to 12. So as an a guide has 5 helpers (the number of helpers is unrestricted) x 12 = 60 bait stations with unlimited quantities of meat/meat products etc. The only requirement is that you can only have 3 bait stations per hunter. The more helpers, the more bait stations.

Possible Solutions:

Limit the number of bait stations a guide is allowed to tend

Issue tags, with the license. The tag, identifying the guide contact information, shall remain at the bait station

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