



## PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

RE: **Testimony on 2021 Senate Bill 48**

TO: The Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business, and Rural Issues

FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

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Thank you to Chairman Stafsholt and members of the committee for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 48 (SB 48).

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. SB 48 enables bidders to potentially win the certificate more than one time, and likely increases proceeds from the sale, likely increasing the amount of money that will be distributed to charity.

Please join me in supporting this legislation.



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# GAE MAGNAFICI

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 28<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## Testimony in Favor of SB 48

Good Morning,

Chairman Stafsholt and members of the committee. Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 48 which corrects how certain bear tags are distributed.

Under current law, the DNR is required to issue two bear hunting tags to the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association. One tag is auctioned, and the other is sold in a raffle.

The issue at hand is the limitation put on these tags, where a bear hunter is only allowed to win once per lifetime. This substantially impacts a major revenue source for this organization which provides scholarships, awards for landowners, and hunting advocacy.

At some point, there will be fewer and fewer hunters to compete for these tags due solely to the "once-in-a-lifetime" rule. Senate Bill 48 corrects a simple oversight, but will have a substantial and positive impact on the community.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.