

RE: Recent regulation change to permanent license age requirement from age 65 to 70.

The Barre Fish and Game Club Board of Trustees , which currently totals 807 members, has voted in opposition to the recent regulation change in the eligibility age of a Vermont permanent hunting license from 65 to 70!

The regulation passed is wrong and should be rescinded! Most Vermont hunters who have reached the age of 65 have been supporting the Fish and Wildlife Department for decades by buying licenses and tags. They have invested in, and supported for the most part, the programs the Department has promoted. This legislation is simply a move to garner more money for the Department as a high number of “baby-boomer hunters” are reaching age 65 and would no longer be buying licenses and tags as they would buy the permanent hunting license. The reason the Department gave was to “get in line with neighboring states”. This should not be a concern as Vermont is not competing with those states for those license dollars from each state’s residents.

It is well known that Vermont is a highly taxed and regulated state. Most Vermont hunters who have reached age 65 are retired. The bulk of them are living on fixed incomes and often have to make choices of where to use their money... for food, heat for their homes, medication, etc. To deny them the privilege of a permanent hunting license at reduced cost at age 65 is a travesty! Many of these hunters will simply not hunt if the restriction remains at 70. And ...many won’t survive until age 70!

Older hunters are the mentors for the younger generations. They are the last bastion of preserving the strong hunting heritage in Vermont. Also, the average age of hunters in Vermont is getting much older. We need these older hunters to participate in hunting for as long as possible to help recruit younger hunters. These younger hunters will continue to buy licenses and tags in the future. And to support their passion for hunting, they will continue to buy hunting-related equipment, of which there are Federal..and State...tax monies received by the State of Vermont. At age 65, Vermont can still retain the \$50.00 fee for an individual to get a permanent license. We are not asking for “FREE”!

Please help to reverse the permanent lifetime hunting license age restriction back to age 65. The hunters who have reached that age deserve to be rewarded for their lifetime of supporting the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. Do the right thing! Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Devon Craig, Secretary

Barre Fish and Game Club