

Untitled

LD 337

Ladies & Gentlemen of the committee,

My name is Dan Hestad. I'm not a political activist nor do I have an agenda. I am a concerned citizen, a former Navy commander, a survival expert, and an arctic guide and photographer. I take small groups into the Arctic Circle for the rare chance to experience the beauty, the majesty and the power of nature at its finest and most brutal.

I returned from my latest trip to Tromso, Norway, just a week ago. In speaking with other Norwegian guides and locals, it's clear the world has a dim view of our conservation policies. They both laugh at us and despise us in the same sentence.

They laugh because they see how we foolishly destroy our valuable wildlife. The same wildlife they know is economically worth far more than a quick kill. They laugh at our methods. Baiting, targeting young, healthy wildlife. They see both the economic and the intrinsic value of wildlife. They don't see it as a product to be consumed; rather a valuable resource that should be protected so that value may last for generations.

They despise our policies for the same reasons.

People with money - real money; would much rather pay to go and take pictures than they would bring back a trophy. Most of the rest of the world already knows this.

I hope you will listen.