



PETITION FOR ADOPTION, AMENDMENT, OR REPEAL OF A STATE ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

Print Form

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, the Office of Financial Management (OFM) created this form for individuals or groups who wish to petition a state agency or institution of higher education to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative rule. You may use this form to submit your request. You also may contact agencies using other formats, such as a letter or email.

The agency or institution will give full consideration to your petition and will respond to you within 60 days of receiving your petition. For more information on the rule petition process, see Chapter 82-05 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=82-05>.

CONTACT INFORMATION *(please type or print)*

Petitioner's Name Brad Thomsen
Name of Organization _____
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City Edmonds State WA Zip Code 98020
Telephone [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

COMPLETING AND SENDING PETITION FORM

- Check all of the boxes that apply.
- Provide relevant examples.
- Include suggested language for a rule, if possible.
- Attach additional pages, if needed.
- Send your petition to the agency with authority to adopt or administer the rule. Here is a list of agencies and their rules coordinators: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Documents/RClst.htm>.

INFORMATION ON RULE PETITION

Agency responsible for adopting or administering the rule: WDFW

☐ 1. NEW RULE - I am requesting the agency to adopt a new rule.

☒ The subject (or purpose) of this rule is: Please See Attached

☒ The rule is needed because: Please See Attached

☒ The new rule would affect the following people or groups: Please See Attached

☐ **2. AMEND RULE - I am requesting the agency to change an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

☐ I am requesting the following change: _____

☐ This change is needed because: _____

☐ The effect of this rule change will be: _____

☐ The rule is not clearly or simply stated: _____

☐ **3. REPEAL RULE - I am requesting the agency to eliminate an existing rule.**

List rule number (WAC), if known: _____

(Check one or more boxes)

☐ It does not do what it was intended to do.

☐ It is no longer needed because: _____

☐ It imposes unreasonable costs: _____

☐ The agency has no authority to make this rule: _____

☐ It is applied differently to public and private parties: _____

☐ It conflicts with another federal, state, or local law or rule. List conflicting law or rule, if known: _____

☐ It duplicates another federal, state or local law or rule. List duplicate law or rule, if known: _____

☐ Other (please explain): _____

Sent via Email to:

rules.coordinator@dfw.wa.gov

commission@dfw.wa.gov

Kelly.Susewind@dfw.wa.gov

Friday May 16th 2025

Rules Coordinator
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Kelly Susewind
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way N.
Olympia, WA 98501

Director Susewind, Commissioners, and WDFW Rules Coordinator:

In accordance with RCW 34.05.330, please accept this petition asking the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to begin rulemaking for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Black Bear Hunting Season;

“Today, May 16th, 2025, the Sportsmen’s Alliance Foundation (SAF) filed a petition with Gov. Ferguson asking for the removal of Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Barbara Baker, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland, and John Lehmkuhl after evidence of corruption and bad practices was uncovered by the organization in its lawsuit to force disclosure of internal communications.”

<https://sportsmensalliance.org/news/saf-petitions-washington-governor-for-removal-of-commissioners/>

Begin rule-making for the RETURN of the Washington State Spring Bear Hunting Season.

Sportsmen's Alliance
May 16, 2025

Sportsmen's Alliance Petitions Washington Gov. Ferguson for Removal of Four Fish and Wildlife Commissioners

Petition cites evidence of corruption, secret meetings and exclusion of tribes and other groups from public meetings

Today, May 16, 2025, the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation (SAF) filed a petition with Gov. Ferguson (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/petition-to-remove-commissioners-barbara-baker-john-lehmkuhl-lorna-smith-and-melanie-rowland-from-the-fish-and-wildlife-commission-under-rcw-43-06-070/>) asking for the removal of Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioners Barbara Baker, Lorna Smith, Melanie Rowland, and John Lehmkuhl after evidence of corruption and bad practices was uncovered by the organization in its lawsuit to force disclosure of internal communications.

"We thought the evidence of corruption might be bad, but the mountain of evidence we've uncovered is like nothing we've seen before," said Evan Heusinkveld, President & CEO of the Sportsmen's Alliance. "This is bad government on steroids. Secret meetings, exclusion of tribes and others from public meetings, an obvious and open contempt for the public, and a total disregard of the law – it's all there, and it's obvious that this is simply the way these four commissioners do business. We are hopeful the governor stands up for the good people of Washington and shuts this down."

Governor Ferguson has the full authority to remove Fish and Wildlife Commissioners for cause, and the SAF petition is replete with examples of behaviors that call for the governor to exercise this authority and put an end to these ongoing abuses. The petition also references a multitude of other documents the organization has that illustrate additional examples of how deep this corruption goes with these commissioners.

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contempt for the public, and a total disregard of the law – it's all there, and it's obvious that this is simply the way these four commissioners do business. We are hopeful the governor stands up for the good people of Washington and shuts this down.

"We have thousands of pages that exhibit how these behaviors are repeated again and again," said Heusinkveld. "We will be making these documents public over time, but we want to give the governor space to consider our petition while our lawsuit continues to uncover even more. More documents will simply mean more evidence, but what we've given the governor is more than enough for a swift removal of this cabal of bad actors."

The SAF petition consists of several parts, but among its most damning evidence is recurrent violations of Washington's Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) by Commissioners Baker, Smith, Rowland, and Lehmkuhl. To garner a majority vote, these commissioners would "daisy-chain" meetings, where three or four would meet through email or on Teams/Zoom, then one or two would reach out to other commissioners to pull together majority votes on issues. Baker was often the fifth vote when the group wanted to move something, but she was always looped in to solidify a decision before a public meeting, sometimes even weeks before.

"This daisy-chain approach, where you put together a majority while claiming to not have a quorum, is nothing more than a favored and long-standing trick of corrupt public officials, where you put together a majority without ever meeting together at once," said Michael Jean, Litigation Counsel for SAF. "This corrupt practice is often utilized so members of a cabal can claim, 'we didn't have a quorum present, so no official meeting took place,' but all of us see through this nonsense for what it is: old fashioned corruption."

There is no time limit on how long Governor Ferguson can consider the petition before taking action. Nor is there a requirement that the governor answer the petition one way or the other. Meanwhile, the SAF lawsuit to compel production of insider communications continues, with more activity expected on that case in coming weeks.

The Sportsmen's Alliance guarantees hunting, fishing and trapping for the American sportsman now and forever. We're there when sportsmen need us most. We are the only organization specifically created to protect the individual hunter, angler and trapper – no matter the threat. We will never compromise when it comes to defending our way of life in the courts, in the legislatures, in the public square and at the ballot box. We make this promise to the American sportsman: we will never give up and never give in while proudly securing our future against those seeking to destroy our values, beliefs, and traditions. Stay connected to Sportsmen's Alliance: Online (<https://sportsmensalliance.org/>), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/sportsmensalliance>), Twitter (https://x.com/i/flow/login?redirect_after_login=%2Fsportsmensall) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sportsmensall/>).

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