

**Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council**

c/o Office of Subsistence Management  
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Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199  
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In Reply Refer To:  
OSM 23133

NOV 27 2023

VF Grace Inc.  
605 East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear owners and managers of VF Grace,

I write to you on behalf of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council). The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region in Western Alaska. The Council was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

During our public meeting held October 10-12, 2023, in Anchorage, Alaska, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) reported to the Council on the negative effects of lead shot to the health of waterfowl, the environment, and people. They also informed us of your company's recent commitment to discontinue selling lead shot to stores throughout the Unit 18 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.

Our Council fully supports this decision and extends our sincere gratitude to your company for making this choice. Eliminating the distribution and subsequent sale of lead shot will help ensure the health of our subsistence resources and the people of our region who depend on them. We hope that you remain committed to this decision even when there are ammunition shortages.

Our Council will continue supporting efforts by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and AVCP's Waterfowl Conservation Committee to educate regional residents of the harmful effects of lead shot. We appreciate your willingness to join in this effort to support healthy communities and subsistence resources by ceasing distribution of lead shot. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator Brooke McDavid at (907) 891-9181 or [brooke\\_mcdavid@fws.gov](mailto:brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Ray Oney'.

Raymond Oney, Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
Acting Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge  
Natural Resources Manager, Association of Village Council Presidents  
Chair, AVCP Waterfowl Conservation Committee  
Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Administrative Record