

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS GIESSEL, Micciche, MacKinnon, Stedman, Dunleavy, Costello, von Imhof, Bishop, Hughes, Coghill, Meyer, Kelly

Introduced: 2/22/17

Referred: Today's Calendar

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the Alaska Congressional delegation in protecting the state's right to**
2 **manage wildlife within its borders.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Supreme Court has long interpreted the United States
5 Constitution to provide state primacy in wildlife management; and

6 **WHEREAS** the state's authority to manage wildlife has been recognized in federal
7 law, including the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
8 Act; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state had managed wildlife within the state since it was granted that
10 authority by the United States Department of the Interior in 1959, and that authority included
11 management of hunting and trapping on national wildlife refuges and national preserves; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state's authority to manage wildlife was inappropriately rescinded by
13 federal regulation for national preserves in October 2015 and national wildlife refuges in
14 August 2016; and

15 **WHEREAS**, as a result, Alaskans have lost the ability to hunt predators at certain
16 times of year or use certain practices in certain areas of the state because unelected individuals

1 within the United States Department of the Interior found those activities distasteful; and

2 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress has an opportunity to repeal the Refuge Rule
3 under the Congressional Review Act under resolutions of disapproval sponsored by
4 Congressman Don Young, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Senator Dan Sullivan; and

5 **WHEREAS** the United States House of Representatives passed Congressman Don
6 Young's disapproval resolution by a vote of 225 to 193 on February 16, 2017; and

7 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of the Interior Nominee Ryan Zinke stated at his
8 confirmation hearing on January 17, 2017, that he would conduct a formal review of both
9 rules;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska Senate supports these efforts to repeal the
11 national preserve and national wildlife refuge rules to restore the state's role in wildlife
12 management; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska Senate congratulates Congressman Young
14 on passage of his disapproval resolution and encourages Senators Murkowski and Sullivan to
15 make all efforts to see that a resolution is also passed by the United States Senate.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of
17 the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the
18 U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
19 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
20 delegation in Congress.