

Dear Senate Resources Committee Members ~ I would like to express my wholehearted support for reinstatement of the Denali Wolf Buffer in HB 105.

I've lived in Fairbanks for 44 years now. When I first arrived in this Great State, I was fortunate to get to view wolves in their native habitat every so often and felt one of the privileged few. It's been years since the last time that happened. I have many people come to visit. I am the Wildlife Gardening Chair of National Garden Clubs, Inc. - we have almost 200,000 members across the nation. I'm always bragging about Alaska and consider this one of the last great frontiers. It is basically impossible to get to see wolves in the wild now except within the park boundaries - our State Board of Game is made up entirely of hunters and guides and only 18% of Alaska residents have hunting licenses. The rest of us live to enjoy our wild animals and we are not represented in our State Game Board at all. Entire wolf packs are being killed - not all humanely, I'm afraid to say. As you know, this is causing a great imbalance in the hunter and prey balance in our State - now causing seasons to be open for our moose cows and calves. We no longer see our wildlife on a regular basis. Enough is enough!

One of our largest income producing industries is now tourism. However, since the Buffer Zone was reversed in 2010, the wolf population is at a dangerous low and only a very few tourists get to see them even in the park anymore.

Please do your duty for the majority of Alaskans who want our wild animals to be left wild and alive!, and our hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit our State every year and want to view them, especially our wolves. Please protect our Denali wolves by reinstating the wolf buffer zone proposed by HB105.

Thank you, Becky Hassebroek,

Becky Hassebroek

National Garden Clubs Wildlife Gardening Chair

National Wildlife Federation Representative

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