

March 19, 2018

To:

The Honorable
Representative Andy Josephson,
Alaska House of Representatives
Room 102 Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, AK 99801
Rep.andy.josephson@akleg.gov

Representative Josephson,

My name is Dr. Brett A. Barringer and I am an Anchorage resident. As an Alaskan I enjoy the wild untamed nature of our state. One of my favorite animals to observe, hunt, and photograph is our Dall sheep. Our state is blessed with more Dall sheep than all the big horn sheep in all the lower 48 states put together! They are a resource cherished for the recreational opportunities they provide as well as economic opportunities for Alaskans.

Hunting our Dall sheep and the time spent in our mountains in their pursuit is a near spiritual experience to me. No one is a casual sheep hunter. Either you haven't done it, you do it once and that's enough, or you've done it and it's turned into an all encompassing passion that reaches fever pitch each fall! I am infatuated with sheep, the mountains, and sheep hunting. Sheep hunters spend thousands of dollars in gear, train many hours per week to keep our physical conditioning, and spend hundreds and thousands of dollars to support the conservation groups that perpetuate our sheep and their habitat.

Wild sheep are an enigmatic symbol of wilderness. Unfortunately in the lower 48 once robust wild sheep populations have succumb to habitat loss, early commercial hunting, and more recently catastrophic disease events. Domestic sheep and goats free to feed and roam in and near sheep habitat have spread foreign pathogens new to North America's sheep. Particularly insidious is *M. ovi*. *M. ovi* is transmitted directly from domestic animals of the Caprinae subfamily to wild sheep and goats. Numerous studies have demonstrated *M. ovi*'s transmission from domestic to wild sheep. *M. ovi* does not usually directly kill its victims. Instead *M. ovi* paralyzes the cilia of the respiratory system making it difficult for wild sheep and goats to expel and control native pathogens. So eventually sheep and goats succumb to a concoction of infection from native bacteria due to *M. ovi*. In the lower 48, there have been all age die-offs as high as 80-90% of a total sheep herd. These are catastrophic events. Additionally survivors carry and spread *M. ovi* to new generations. Also lamb mortality and survival can be seriously impacted for many years, limiting the herd's ability to repopulate.

M. ovi has various strains. Some of them are more virulent than others. We do not know the strain and virulence of the current M. ovi facing the sheep in the Talkeetna Range. What we do know is that it's highly probable that M. ovi was transmitted to our wild sheep by domestic animals. If this event is not catastrophic and nothing is changed, it is only a matter of time before a more virulent and deadly strain is transmitted. In short, complacency and inaction are not options consistent with the health and survival of Alaska's wild sheep.

I am writing you to express my support for HCR 23 and to implore the legislature to do everything in its power to protect Alaska's wild sheep. It's important at this time to understand that while Alaska has a wealth of sheep and sheep managers, it also has a dearth of those experience and knowledgeable with wild sheep pathology. At a time like this it is critical to avoid being a lone wolf or pioneer. It's prudent to speak with experienced managers from the lower 48 who have spent their careers studying wild sheep and the pathogens that besiege them, including M. ovi. In speaking with these experts I have ascertained there are both immediate actions and long term actions that must occur to secure the health and future of Alaska's wild sheep.

Immediately the legislature needs to pass legislation mandating the testing of all domestic animals of the Caprinae subfamily. Any animals infected with M. ovi must be destroyed. Similarly all future importation of animals from the subfamily Caprinae into the state of Alaska must be tested for M. ovi. M. ovi is not endemic to Alaska, so if it is eliminated from domestic stock, it can't be transmitted to our wild animals. Also the legislature must act to ban animals from the subfamily Caprinae from being used as pack animals in wild sheep, goat, and muskox habitat. We must limit the ability of domestic animals to interact with our wild Caprinae. Lastly the Department of Fish and Game must immediately initiate a helicopter capture and testing project in the area of infection to confirm results and ascertain more data on the problem. There is a very finite window for doing this. As soon as April, pregnant ewes will become more susceptible to mortality due to stress from the capture. I implore the legislature to take any and all immediate action to ensure funding and support for the department to conduct this vital step in verifying and quantifying the problem we face in the next few weeks.

In the long term the Alaska Department of Fish and Game needs to study the population near the sight of infection. The total population, its make up, and lamb survival must be measured and monitored. Also a statewide disease-screening program needs to be implemented to secure nose swab samples from as many sport hunted sheep and goat specimens as possible. This will help determine the distribution of M. ovi throughout the state and monitor for future outbreaks or spread. I implore the legislature to ensure funding and support to The Alaska Department of Fish and Game for these measures.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this critical matter. Alaska's wild sheep are near to my heart and I hope you will shoulder the task of being their champion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brett A. Barringer
3811 Truro Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99507
Barringer_19@yahoo.com
Cell: 907-947-0983

ALASKA

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: office@alaskaprohunter.org ~ www.alaskaprohunter.org

Representative Andy Josephson

RE: Support of HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) is in full support of House Concurrent Resolution 23 (HCR 23).

APHA is a statewide association representing Alaska's hunting guide industry. In 2015, APHA partnered with Safari Club International to commission The McDowell Group to report on "*The Economic Importance of Hunters Visiting Alaska- Alaska's Guided Hunting Industry 2015.*" We are pleased to report that our industry brought \$52.5 million **new** dollars to Alaska's economy, while directly employing 1,550 people. Alaska's guide businesses are Alaskan owned, according to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, fully 86% of the active registered guides are resident Alaskan's. The link between new dollars and Alaska ownership is clearly demonstrated by the \$37.5 million dollars that Alaska's hunting guide industry spent with Alaskan businesses. Alaska's hunting guide industry is an important economic engine for Alaska.

Alaska is unique. We have vast wild lands, healthy native populations of game and constitutionally embedded public ownership of our fish and game. Our members provide professional and safe accompaniment for visitors wishing to hunt big game in Alaska's remote and perilous wilderness. We are completely dependent on Alaska's wildlife for our livelihoods. It's because of this dependence on wildlife that APHA is first and foremost a wildlife conservation organization. We work hard to advocate for proactive and foresighted wildlife management policies, HCR 23 is precisely that.

Alaska used to be more unique. Until this Tuesday (March 13, 2018) our wild sheep and goats had never tested positive for any disease directly attributed to domestic animals. We are deeply troubled and saddened by the news that four Dall sheep in the Talkeetna mountains and two mountain goats on the Kenai tested positive for a deadly foreign pathogen. Sadly, our colleagues in the other western states tell us of catastrophic die offs and decades of lost hunting opportunity as their states confront terrible die offs directly attributed to Movi. Alaska is getting less unique all the time, we are deeply concerned about the news that a deadly disease was discovered directly adjacent to the center of agriculture in Alaska.

Alaska's hunting guides strongly support proactive policies to prevent transmission of disease to our wild animals. Alaska's wilderness and our wild fish and wildlife make us unique, it seems

Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

that we get less unique and more common every day. Thank you for sponsoring HCR 23, we only wish that these pro-active policies were put in place sooner. APHA stands with you in your efforts to prevent disease transmission to Alaska's wildlife. After all, its not sheep and goat farms that make us special, those are common all over the world, it's our native fish and wildlife that gives Alaska it's true character.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Rohrer', with a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Sam Rohrer

APHA President

cc:

House Resources Committee

Senate Resources Committee

March 21, 2018

The Hon. Andy Josephson
Alaska House of Representatives
Room 102 Capitol Bldg.
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Representative Josephson:

Our sportsmen-conservation organizations, representing a large portion of all American sportsmen and women, strongly support House Concurrent Resolution No. 23. This measure supports enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and non-endemic parasites. This is a vital and basic duty in wildlife conservation.

Action against foreign pathogens and infectious diseases is particularly important in Alaska where wildlife is a celebrated treasure of worldwide renown. The value of wildlife conservation reaches throughout the way of life and economy of Alaska, intertwined with such basic needs as food security and such economic strengths as tourism.

HCR No. 23 is consistent with a federal proposal from Sen. Lisa Murkowski directing federal agencies to use the best data and information to identify risks of disease transmission and solutions by working directly with state agencies, other professionals, and stakeholders.

With 40,000-50,000 Dall's sheep, Alaska is home to 25% of all wild sheep in North America. Recent proof of pathogen spillover from domestic stock to wild Dall's sheep in the Talkeetna range is alarming and should be a call to swift action to prevent additional disease transmission which threatens this incredibly valuable resource to Alaskans, Americans and people worldwide.

Please rely on our full support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 as you continue to push for its adoption.

Thank you for your efforts.



February 25, 2018

The Honorable Andy Josephson
House Resource Committee Co-Chair
Alaska State House of Representatives

RE: AK WSF Letter in Support of HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

The Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AK WSF) would like to thank you for your efforts in support of the prevention of disease in domestic and wild animals and to let you know that we strongly support HCR23.

We have firsthand knowledge of some of the foreign pathogens that threaten our valuable wildlife resources. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), winter ticks on moose, epizootic die-offs from pneumonia, and Brucellosis to name a few. Many of these threats can be countered with early detection and an appropriate response.

Through a proactive approach and development of a systemic response capability that can be tailored to each unique threat we might well be able to counter them before they do significant damage in Alaska.

AK WSF appreciates this Resolution and we will be happy to provide support for its passage in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

Kevin J Kehoe
President
Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation
Email: kevinkehoe@alaskan.com
Office: 907-868-8821



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

March 20, 2018

To: Representative Andy Josephson

Re: Support for HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) was founded in part over conservation concerns for Dall sheep populations that have declined on a steady trend for the past 30 years. RHAK shares the real concerns of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and other wildlife conservation organizations regarding the recent detection of the bacteria *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M. ovi) in wild Dall sheep and mountain goats. M. ovi transmission from domestic to wild stocks is well known and has caused the die-offs of many bighorn sheep populations in the lower 48.

RHAK stands ready to work with the Department and other organizations on approaches to address this issue, and we support the intent of House Resolution HCR 23 to enhance efforts by the state to test and protect our wild game populations from infectious diseases.

Right now we have more questions than answers. Science should supersede emotion. We don't yet know what strain of M. ovi is in our wild sheep and goats, it's overall prevalence and virulence. It's important that we let the state veterinarians and biologists do more testing on both domestic and wild stocks and discover what strains of M. ovi we are dealing with.

Currently, the Department, at request from the Board of Game and in coordination with the Wild Sheep Foundation and organizations representing farmers and producers in Alaska, is forming a working group to go over the issue of M. ovi transmission from domestic to wild stocks, and solutions to prevent that from happening. RHAK supports those efforts and hopes to be involved.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska



March 20, 2018

RE: Alaska Legislature – Concurrent Resolution No. 23

The Alaska, domestic and international membership of the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) expresses our full support of Representative Josephson sponsored House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 supporting enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and non-endemic parasites which was introduced February 21, 2018.

The great state of Alaska and her wildlife are celebrated, viewed and valued worldwide as an iconic resource that deserves the utmost protection from foreign pathogens and infectious diseases that could threaten the wildlife, food security, the economy, and the people of the state.

HCR Resolution No. 23 is consistent with the federal proposal from Sen. Lisa Murkowski directing federal agencies to use the best data and information to identify risks of disease transmission and solutions by working directly with state agencies, other professionals, and stakeholders.

With 40,000-50,000 Dall's sheep Alaska is home to 25% of all wild sheep in North America. Recent proof of pathogen spillover from domestic stock to wild Dall's sheep in the Talkeetna range is alarming and should be a call to swift action to prevent additional disease transmission which threatens this incredibly valuable resource to Alaskans, Americans and people worldwide.

WSF reiterates our full support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett K. Jefferson
Chairman of the Board

Gray N. Thornton
President & CEO



March 20, 2018

RE: Alaska Legislature – Concurrent Resolution No. 23

The Alaska, domestic and international membership of the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) expresses our full support of Representative Josephson sponsored House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 supporting enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and non-endemic parasites which was introduced February 21, 2018.

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WSF reiterates our full support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett K. Jefferson
Chairman of the Board

Gray N. Thornton
President & CEO

From: Bob Bell <bbell@frbcmh.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:38 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; aaron bloomquist <bloomya@hotmail.com>

Subject: sheep

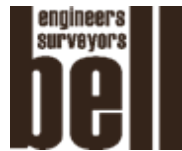
Rep. Josephson: I can't imagine why we would put our wild sheep and goats at risk for a few people who raise goats and sheep as a hobby. the economic impact of losing our wild sheep for out wights the domestic animals. we already have found the virus in some of our wild animals. HCR 23 is a good first step. Bob

--

F. Robert Bell, PE, PLS
CEO/Principal

BELL & Associates

801 W Fireweed LN, Ste 201 | Anchorage, AK 99503
Desk 907.743.3404 | Cell 907.441.9324 Office 907.274.5257



-----Original Message-----

From: Bearfoot Adventures, LLC <moreinfo@bearfootadventures.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:23 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

Hello My name is Chet Benson and I live in Wasilla. I have hunted sheep in Alaska since 1997 when I first moved here. I have been an outfitter for sheep since 2003. Alaskan wildlife has a special place in the hearts of many of us and few animals are as special as the Dall sheep. It is extremely important that we do everything we can to protect our sheep populations from this new threat. I urge you to support HCR 23.

Thank you

Chet Benson

<http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=emailclient> Virus-free. www.avg.com <http://www.avg.com/email-signature?utm_medium=email&utm_source=link&utm_campaign=sig-email&utm_content=emailclient>

From: Dick/Mary Bishop <dmbishop@ptialaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 3:05 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR 23

House Resources Committee Members:

Please pas HCR 23. More effort to enhance protection of Alaskan wildlife and domestic animals from foreign pathogens is appropriate and necessary. Wildlife is particularly vulnerable to negative effects of such elements. Examples such as mange first found among Kenai Peninsula wolves , probably contracted via domestic dogs and now widespread in Alaska demonstrates the hazards to Alaska's wildlife if either undetected or unaddressed. M. ovi may pose a similar threat to Dall Sheep and mountain goats.

Thank you.

Richard H. Bishop
1555 Gus's Grind
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Ph: 907 455 6151

-----Original Message-----

From: bjorgan@alaska.net <bjorgan@alaska.net>

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:00 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>;

Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-

Leonard@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

Ladies and Gentlemen,

HCR 23 is now a MUST HAVE to actively engage and control a now identified disease in Alaska.

Please do whatever you can to make this happen.

Thank you !

Randy Bjorgan

3038 Donington Drive

Anchorage AK 99504-3847

952-4353

From: victor ralph Bloomquist <vicbloomquist441@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR23

Please support HCR 23. I've hunted and fished Alaska and am deeply concerned with the situation with Dall Sheep (and goats, stone sheep in Yukon, for that matter). I was a federal employee working in the National Forest system for 30 years, and know how important this issue is!!

Sincerely,

V. Ralph Bloomquist

vicbloomquist441@msn.com

From: Cary Taylor
To: [Rep. Andy Josephson: House Resources](#)
Subject: Support of HCR 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 3:36:25 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Cary Bloomquist, I am a resident of Alaska, parent, a high school science teacher, and also hold a Registered Guide/Outfitter license for the State. I am in support of HCR 23 for many reasons.

As a resident I value the importance of maintaining our States resources properly for the use of all residents as stated in the Alaska Constitution.

As a science teacher, I value and respect the use of science based strategies for solving problems. These are skills I model to my students and hope they utilize in their practice. Our State biologists are well educated, trained, and were hired to utilize their learned skills to properly manage and protect our State's wild game populations for all.

Lastly as a resident, parent and guide I see the economic importance of our sheep and goat populations. Many residents and nonresidents will hunt these animals for winter food supplies and trophy. I know many families, mainly rural in this case that will harvest a sheep through federal subsistence opportunities. This can be a family affair where parents will take their older children along for the harvest. Being able to offer those experiences for families is immeasurable. Our State does generate some revenue through the sale of licences, out of state locking tags, and draw tag fees. There are many visitors to this state who come to see and experience wild life-sheep and goats included.

HCR 23 will address these and many more concerns in the protection of wild game species from attracting disease. Diminished game populations hurt many individuals, as well as the delicate balance of the ecosystems well being. This bill may be one crucial step in helping prevent the break in the balance.

Sincerely,

Cary Bloomquist
Intensive Resource Science/Math Teacher-Palmer High School
Registered Guide/Outfitter #1344

From: Skip Bourgeois <GBourgeoisIII@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 6:55 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Skip (George) Bourgeois III. I live in Palmer and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular. I also enjoy backpacking in Alaska's treasured mountains and spending whatever time I can outside with my family.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I live in Alaska specifically because of the mountains and animals of this great state. I think HCR23 will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Skip (George) Bourgeois III
907-360-9838
10430 E Olivewood Dr, Palmer, AK 99645

From: Greg Boyd <akboydman@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:49 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Alaska sheep populations

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that you are currently addressing a bill ref. disease control of our wild sheep. I guided and hunted sheep in Alaska for nearly 30 yrs, hold a degree in Wildlife Mangmnt., in 2005, our sheep population had a drastic loss. We never discovered the reason. The Wrangell Mt. sheep population experienced similar losses in prior years. From aerial surveys we did see sick sheep, I own Ram-River outfitters, Reg Guide 599. Wild Sheep are one of Alaska's icons, we need to protect the populations we have to enhance not only hunting but also, our visitors that wish to see these animals.

Thank you for your consideration,
Greg Boyd

From: Paul Brehmer <brehmer@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:59 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR 23

Greetings,

I would just like to express my absolute support for your efforts to protect our wildlife populations from disease threats. We should definitely do everything possible to keep our wildlife safe from non-endemic pathogens like *M. ovipneumoniae*. As a hunter and DVM I'm certain that there are practical solutions that could be enacted.

Thanks,
Paul Brehmer

From: rbundtzen@gmail.com <rbundtzen@gmail.com> **On Behalf Of** Robert Bundtzen
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 10:27 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Concurrent Resolution 23

I am a strong supporter of this resolution. It is essential to prevent disease in our wildlife populations of sheep.

Robert Bundtzen

-----Original Message-----

From: Dickie Byrd <dbyrd@mosquitonet.com>

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:30 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

I ask that the House Resources act upon and support HCR 23.

The wildlife of Alaska is a very important part of Alaska's economy. All of the big game of Alaska, (Moose, Bear, Caribou, Sheep, Goats, etc.), are an important part of the Guiding industry, the tourist industry, and for those that just enjoy the outdoors and wildlife. The big game is also very important to the environment of this state. I believe the biggest role these game animals provide though is the livelihood of all the remote villages and the hundreds of thousands of other people who rely on them for survival. Please push HCR 23 forward and try to get this resolution through the political process this session.

Thank you

Dickie L. Byrd

A 53-year resident that has harvested Moose or Caribou and Salmon annually since 1965.

From: Felix Chambers <fchambersfamily@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:59 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23 - resolution to enhance efforts to protect wildlife & domestic animals from diseases

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Felix CHAMBERS. I live in Anchorage, ALASKA for the past 23+years and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about (*hunting, viewing, wildlife photography, conservation*).

I understand that this piece of legislation re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Sincerely,

Felix M. CHAMBERS
(907) 333-2800
500 Fredricks Drive
Anchorage, ALASKA
99504-1124

From: Ivan Clark, P.E. <clarkivan@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:23 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23 - Please Support

Dear Chairman Josephson and members of the committee,

As an avid sheep hunter and wildlife enthusiast I was shocked to learn of the detection of Movi in our wild sheep, although not surprised. I've been around sheep, both domestics and wild sheep my entire life. I'm an avid sheep hunter and grew up on a sheep/cattle ranch in MT. I think this gives me perspective from both sides of this issue. If wild animals could pass a pathogen onto domestic animals, the stock growers association of Alaska would be calling for a similar resolution against wild sheep. Let me give you an example.

Brucellosis is a fairly common disease in domestic and wild animals. Its found in animals in Alaska and throughout the world, and is very prevalent in the caribou on the north slope. Humans can be infected with it as well, called undulate fever or Bang's disease, generally comes from unpasteurized milk or under cooked meat. The cattle variant was passed to bison and presumably onto elk at some point in the past to the animals in and around Yellowstone Park, supposedly from a dairy that once existed in the Park. Montana maintains a "brucellosis free" status by routinely hazing the bison back into the park and keeping cattle away from them. The park then captures and tests, and euthanizes brucellosis positive bison in an effort to eliminate it from the US. Think about that for a moment. A herd of wild animals who were infected with a domestic disease, are now slaughtered and removed from the wild, because they pose a threat to domestic animals. Congress initiated a program to wipe out brucellosis because of the health effects it can cause to humans, but most importantly (to the cattleman) the financial losses associated with the industry was the reason. Its extremely rare in humans due to pasteurization of milk, proper heat handling and testing of animals. The only remaining threat is cost to vaccinate, which costs all of about \$5 a shot, yet we are rounding up and killing bison so save the ranchers a few bucks. A war on elk has been initiated in the last couple years as well with the same reasoning. MT now has a 8 month hunting season, and they're shooting elk from August through March in an effort to reduce transmission to cattle. Hunters are more than willing to help them out, but are also the first to complain there are no elk... which is ironic.

The point of this example, is that wildlife should never take second place to domestic animals with the excuse of "livelihood." Viable sheep "farms" in Alaska are non-existent, or nearly. Maybe a dozen? The rest of the domestic owners have pets, or an excuse to be self-reliant. Yes this is a complex issue, but according to the testing by the Wild Sheep Foundation, the presence of Movi is quite low already, and could be possible to eradicate from the domestic population quite easily. The longer we wait, the high chance of it spreading to both domestics and wild sheep. I believe we will see mass die offs in Alaska unless something is done now. .

Its hard to separate emotion of owning a pet and livelihood of true livestock producers in favor of conservation of wild animals, but the risk is much too high to not do so. Someones pet, which may live 8-10 years is not worth an eternity without wild sheep. I'm sorry, but its not. Time and time again wild sheep herds in the L48 have died off, with the most plausible cause being proximity to domestic sheep. Scientist are quick to note that the cause is undeniably known, and justifiably so, because its extremely hard to prove the exact transmission. Strangely enough, no such die-offs have ever occurred in Alaska or the north, which coincidentally does not have many domestic sheep, or any public land grazing. If we set aside the exact vector for a second and ponder the mere presence, or lack thereof, domestic sheep/goats in Alaska vs various states in the L48, its quite obvious to me the reason we have not had an outbreak. There are domestic animals in Glacier View and near Sheep Mountain, within the proximity of the Movi outbreak, not hard to put 2 and 2 together... I would expect to find it in Turnagain Arm next, and in Cooper Landing and/or McCarthy.

As mentioned above, I'm an avid sheep hunter. I spend roughly 20 days a year hunting sheep in Alaska. I moved here almost 10 years ago, specifically to hunt sheep. I have 2 small children that I can't wait for the opportunity to take them sheep hunting. I couldn't imagine a landscape without wild sheep. The places they live, the hardship they endure, and the challenge of the hunt, makes them the pinnacle of all big game species hunt in the world.

Please support HCR 23 and do what's right for wildlife. Being reactive after a massive die off is unacceptable, lead the way in being proactive and save our sheep!

Regards,

Ivan Clark
Chugiak, AK

-----Original Message-----

From: dolphin954 <dolphin954@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:04 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Ross Clement . and have lived in Alaska 59 years and hunted and guided Big Game. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support.

Ross Clement
15200 Buffalo Road
Anchorage,

From: gary colbath <bohunt@live.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:56 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23 - resolution to enhance efforts to protect wildlife & domestic animals from diseases

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Gary Colbath I live in Palmer and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about archery, *hunting, wildlife photography, and conservation.*

I understand that this piece of legislation re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Gary Colbath
605-391-27763

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Support for HCR23

Date: Tue, 20 Mar 2018 14:43:01 -0400

From: dcoppock@alaska.net

To: Representative.Andy.Johnson@akleg.gov

Dear Representative Johnson and Members of the Resource Committee:
My husband and I want to express our support for HCR23 and to thank you for sponsoring this piece of legislation.

I am Carole Coppock and my husband is Dwight Coppock. We live in Wasilla and we are hunters and conservationists. We have hunted wild sheep and goats, moose and caribou in Alaska, and wild sheep, deer, antelope, and elk in other states.

We understand that HCR23 re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals for many threats from foreign pathogens and parasites. There are many of these and although we know this bill does not address any specific one, in other places in the western US, domestic animals and wild game populations have been greatly impacted by infectious agents which we ought to do all we can to prevent from coming here.

Alaska's wildlife is one of our state's greatest and most wonderful resources. Seeing wild animals is something tourists value the most, and we also enjoy wildlife viewing as well as hunting. We believe that this bill will encourage a pro-active approach to protecting our animals and we are therefore in favor of it and urge you to continue your support for it.

Thank you for your support of our wildlife.

Sincerely yours,
Dwight and Carole Coppock

Home 907-357-4063

Cell 907-232-0634

Physical:

3520 S. Hilltop Circle

Wasilla, AK 99623

Mailing:

7362 W. Parks Hwy. PMB 303

Wasilla, AK 99623

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Cowan <crosshairsofalaska@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:07 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Alaska Professional <office@alaskaprohunter.org>
Subject: Support for HCR 23

My name is Mike Cowan, Owner of Crosshairs Outfitters LLC, in Alaska. I'm a Master Guide #217 I have been guiding Dall Sheep hunters for over 40 years, Dall Sheep in Alaska one of the premier renewable resources that a lot resident and non-residents look forward in Harvesting each year. But we also need to protect our resource for the future of Alaska and other places that Dall Sheep graze and live like Canada., So with that being said I'm in Support of this bill HCR 23,

Sincerely Yours,
Outfitter.

Mike Cowan/Master Guide &

From: Benjamin Crawford <drcrawford@accuratevisionclinic.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:35 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23

Representative Josephson,

Please support HCR 23, it is important to keep our wild sheep safe and healthy. I am expecting my first child in September and I hope when they are old enough they can enjoy seeing sheep in the mountains.

Thank you,

Benjamin Crawford, O.D.

Accurate Vision Clinic

#yourvisionourfocus

3401 Minnesota Dr., Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99503

Office 907-272-9800 | Fax 907-277-1398 | Mobile 907-717-1038

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Crawford <creditcardmike@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:39 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR23

Dear Representative Josephson,

First I would like to thank you for bringing to attention the very important subject of pathogen transmission to our wildlife in Alaska. As you know we now have confirmed the presence of some of these catastrophic pathogens in our wild sheep and goat populations. I support any actions from the legislature and your committee to hopefully prevent further spread of these diseases.

I am a lifelong conservationist, hunter and fisherman. I have lived on the Kenai Peninsula since 2000. I have been a member and Chairman of the Kenai-Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee for about 13 years. In that time I have never been more concerned for the health of our wild sheep and goats in Alaska.

In addition to HCR 23 I think the immediate restriction of any importation of live sheep and goats is warranted.

Also mandatory testing of all domestic sheep and goats currently in the state. While the use of pack goats has been disallowed by ADFG, the use of domestic goats is allowed for non hunting purposes. This must be immediately prohibited for any use. The value of these wild animals to all Alaskans is priceless. While I know that many of the owners of these animals see them more than livestock, we must do everything in our power to halt the progression of these devastating diseases from spreading through our wildlife.

I will be in Juneau next week on Tuesday the 27th and Wednesday the 28th and would like to discuss this further with you.

Mike Crawford

PO Box 2067 Soldotna AK.99669

907-252-2919

creditcardmike@yahoo.com

From: Dana DeBernardi <dana@moosemamas.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:33 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR23 Question

Hi Andy-

I am the Founder and President of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Fund (DBA Moose Mamas). We rescue, rehabilitate, and release orphaned moose calves back into the wild.

My question for you is if HCR23 would have any impact on my program. Although M.Ovi is a pathogen that is found in sheep, there has been two positive test results that were found in the two moose calves that were down at the Conservation Center (AWCC) in 2015. As far as I know, these are the only two moose EVER known to have M.Ovi. It is my understanding that at least one of the calves were held next to the sheep at the Alaska Zoo before being transferred to AWCC. If the results were correct, this means that moose are subject to this deadly pathogen. Since this incident, I take extreme precautions to make sure my moose calves are tested for M.Ovi via nasal swab culturing.

I just want to make sure that HCR23 will not interfere with translocations such as ours. As I mentioned, our calves are always tested for parasites and diseases before releasing them, but I want to make sure our efforts won't be effected by this piece of legislation.

I have a lot of friends in the wildlife arena that are encouraging me to support HCR23 i.e. John Sturgeon and Aaron Bloomquist. Before I do, I need to make sure I understand the language and the intent.

If you would like more information on the M. Ovi testing that our State Vet conducted, please let me know. I have the test results.

Thank you so much for your time. You can call me anytime to discuss.

907-310-3650

Dana DeBernardi
Founder/Executive Director
Alaska Wildlife Conservation Fund

•Moose Mamas•

www.moosemamas.org

From: Keith Douglas <keithdouglas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Representative Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee,

I am expressing my support for HCR23 and thanking you for sponsoring this important and timely piece of legislation.

My name is Keith A. Douglas and I have lived in east Anchorage for 39 years. Since arriving at Elmendorf AFB in 1979 my avocation has been the mountains within Alaska and the sheep that inhabit them. I do have a degree in Biology, I have worked with the Department of Fish and Game and have backpacked, hunted and guided within the state for 37 years. I am truly passionate about sheep and the ecology of the mountains they live within.

Although I do focus on sheep, I understand that this piece of legislation is broader and reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife that Alaskans are uniquely attached to. I do believe it also protects both wild and domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife and the mountains they enliven have been my avocation as well as my passion. As I age my time hunting sheep has diminished and will soon end. I have dedicated myself to helping future generations of Alaskans enjoy the grandeur of the mountains and their denizens. Opportunity has been diminishing over the recent years and I do not want to see them disappear. I think this bill will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting our sacred animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Keith A. Douglas
907-333-2708
8560 E. 12th Ct.
Anchorage, AK 99504

-----Original Message-----

From: Ryan Drager <drager1994@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 8:33 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Hcr23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Ryan Drager, I live in Anchorage and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Ryan Drager

4250 Crannog st

Anchorage, AK 99502

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sue Entsminger <widsue@aptalaska.net>

Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:30 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Emails needed asap on HCR23 Wildlife disease protection

Dear Rep. Andy Josephson,

My husband Frank and I have been in Alaska 56 & 45 years, collectively 101 years. We are avid hunters and especially sheep hunters. We spend several months a year afield. We have been fortunate to have enjoyed years of not only hunting sheep but photographing and admiring them on many outdoor trips. You could say our passion is in the mountains and wild sheep. The concern of a disease that would jeopardize Alaska's sheep population would be devastating to our landscape and the love the people have enjoying the wilds of Alaska. Please consider prioritizing this for the state. This is so important to the future. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sue & Frank Entsminger

HC 72 Box 800

Tok, AK 99780

widsue@aptalaska.net

<http://tokmanagementarea.com/guides.html>

<http://wildernesscreations.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/Frank-Entsminger-249427488427072/> like on Facebook

Hm 907-883-2833

[Cells only when traveling]

Franks's Cell 907-632-5315

Sue's Cell 907-310-3514

From: Mikey Evans
To: [Rep. Andy Josephson: House Resources](#)
Subject: Please Support HCR23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:44:33 PM

Please support HCR23. Alaska is known for its wildlife and provides so many opportunities for economic development. Alaska's sheep and goat population are vital to the success of so many businesses their protection is essential. Additionally, it is critical to give state agencies, responsible for game management, the ability to prioritize and protect species affected by disease and pathogens.

Thank you,

Mikey Evans
1475 W. Hidden Lane Circle
Palmer, AK 99645

From: Brett Evens <Brett@hedgecockgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:44 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee,

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Brett Evens . I live in Fairbanks, and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Best!

Brett Evens, Associate Broker
Hedgecock Group Real Estate, LLC.
907-978-3765
<https://www.fairbanksakhomes.com/brett/>
[About Brett Evens](#)



HUD Approved Brokerage

The greatest compliment I can receive is the referral of your friends and family.

From: Jan Flora <grewingk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:04 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR23

Dear Representative Josephson:

I support HCR23, Protect Wildlife from Foreign Pathogens.

Our warming climate is bringing new pathogens and vectors with it. Our state agencies are doing their due diligence, doing surveillance for emerging diseases. We need to support their efforts to protect both our wildlife and our domestic livestock. We need science-based evidence, so we can make good decisions. This is not just an animal health issue; it's a public health issue, because we eat these animals. Some diseases are zoonotic - they can be passed from animals to the humans who eat them or handle them.

Dr. Gerlach's talk at the recent Delta Farm Forum very eloquently supports this resolution.

<http://fm.kuac.org/post/state-veterinarian-urges-farmers-watch-new-diseases-alaska-wildlife-livestock>

I support passage of HCR23.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Flora

Swift Creek Ranch
Homer, Alaska

From: raf@cvinternet.net <raf@cvinternet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:07 AM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR23

I would like to voice my support for HCR23. I feel it is necessary to protect the health and quality of Alaskan wildlife. Please make sure this bill passes and is funded completely. Thank you.

Bob Frisbie
Gakona

From: John Frost
To: [House Resources](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: HCR 23 protecting our Dall sheep and Rocky Mt goats
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 4:58:11 PM

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support HCR 23 which I understand would give valuable protections to Alaska's wild Dall sheep and Rocky Mt goats from developing and spread of diseases that can be devastating to these important Alaskan big game species.

I have personally seen some of the devastation that bacterial diseases can cause in wild sheep populations in the lower 48 states. Prior to this last season there was no evidence of presence of pathogens such as M.P. in Alaska but just in the last week there has been a report by ADF&G of four sheep in the Talkeetna Mts and two goats with the disease. we don't know yet if we will get major die offs in Alaska but we should put protections in place to prevent or minimize the effects of these and other diseases.

thank you,

John D Frost MD

From: garyagearthart@gmail.com <garyagearthart@gmail.com> **On Behalf Of** Gary Gearhart
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee,

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Gary A. Gearhart. I live in Palmer, AK and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. A life member of Safari Club International, I attended the Thin Horn Sheep conference in Vancouver, BC during which there were serious discussions concerning the impact of M.ovi on the wild sheep populations in Alaska and the three western provinces of Canada.

I understand that this piece of legislation re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I am an instructor at the SCI Foundations American Wilderness Leadership School in Jackson, WY where we teach educators wildlife conservation and management. There they learn that the survival of our wildlife species depends on a proactive approach.

Whether one is a hunter, a photographer, or simply enjoys viewing wildlife, your bill will serve to protect our wildlife and therefore I am very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Gary A. Gearhart
907-355-4605
2750 S. Sky Ranch Lp.
Palmer, AK 99645

--

Gary A. Gearhart.
907-355-4605

From: Al Gilliam <al.gilliam@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:17 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sam Kito
<Rep.Sam.Kito@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

Dear Representatives' Josephson and Kito

My name is Al Gilliam. I have been a professional hunting guide in Alaska since 1989. My guide license number is M-185. I have lived in Haines since 1976.

100% of my family's income is derived from the guiding industry, and we employ two assistant guides.

Hunting Mountain Goats is the primary focus of my business, and my assistant hunting guides also guide Sheep hunts for other outfitters in Alaska when not working for us.

Both Mountain Goats and Sheep are endangered by pathogens that are transmitted by domestic livestock. Such a disease has the potential to devastate the guiding industry as well as to affect subsistence hunting for Alaskan residents who depend on wild game for food.

Several wild Sheep near Anchorage were recently diagnosed with a deadly pathogen that was passed to them via domestic stock. That pathogen has the ability to spread statewide and decimate our Mountain Goats and wild Sheep.

I am writing this letter in support of HCR 23.

Respectfully,

Al Gilliam

Alaska Cross Country Guiding

PO Box 731

Haines, Alaska 99827

Phone # 907-767-5522

al.gilliam@hotmail.com

www.alaskabearandgoathunting.com

From: Kelly Gordon <sksgordon@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:19 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please support HCR 23

Honorable members of the Alaska House of Representatives,

I hunt in Alaska and appreciate Alaskan wildlife and want to see healthy wildlife populations now and in the future!

Please support HCR 23: Supporting enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites.

It is vitally important given the recent news from ADF&G this week about finding M.o vi (an extremely dangerous respiratory pathogen) in Dall sheep in 13A and mountain goats in 15C.

Thank you in advance.

Stephen Gordon
9300 E. Gordy Dr.
Palmer, Alaska 99645

From: Eddie Grasser <eddie@aksafariclub.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:02 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gary Knopp <Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Justin Parish <Rep.Justin.Parish@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

I am writing to express my strong support for HCR 23, related to infectious diseases in wild sheep and goat populations. I want to thank you for introducing this legislation as it is both timely and necessary to initiate strategies for saving our wild populations of Dall's sheep and mountain goats.

Now that instances of M.ovi have been found in wild sheep and goats, we owe it to Alaska's long history of excellent management of our wildlife to tackle this situation head on. HCR 23 is a great first step. It is time to gather the expertise and dedication our biologists, veterinarians along with their proven partners in the conservation movement to begin the process of solving this crisis while we may still have an opportunity to salvage our wild populations.

I appreciate your willingness to engage Alaskans in this discussion and look forward to working with you and your staff in passing this resolution.

Eddie Grasser

Chair Governmental Affairs

SCI

Alaska Chapter

cc: House Resources Committee Members

Members of the House Legislative Outdoor Caucus

From: larry hamsley <larryandnellie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:47 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject:

Please do whatever you can to support HCR23. We live in North Pole.

From: Walter Hanni
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Support for House resolution 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:44:23 PM

The old saying an ounce of protection is worth a pound of cure. Anything we can do to protect our sheep and goats should be considered.. si i support the resolution.

From: Jared Hanson <jared.hanson@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:54 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee:

I am reaching out to express my strong support for HCR23. Additionally, I would like to thank you for sponsoring this piece of legislation, as the protection of the Alaska we call home is important to me.

My name is Jared Hanson; I live in Palmer and am a passionate outdoorsman, environmentalist, conservationist, and hunter. I love the Alaskan outdoors and everything that it entails. From our wetlands to our most rugged peaks, the landscape and the wildlife make Alaska the best place on earth. I support doing everything in our power to protect the irreplaceable wildlife we have in our beautiful state.

In particular, I am in strong support of protecting our two of our mountain species—Dall sheep and Mountain Goat—from all foreign pathogens and parasites. These regal animals successfully navigate the harshest environments in our state. It is my belief that we have an obligation ensure our domestic herds to not add to this hardship.

I believe this legislation is a step that demonstrates we are committed to protecting all wildlife from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites. I hope this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Jared Hanson
907-355-2273
Palmer, AK

-----Original Message-----

From: O'Regan & Kahlenbeck <orka@gci.net>

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 4:40 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23

I want to voice my support for the subject resolution.

Ron Kahlenbeck

Anchorage

From: nathan kalish <nate_kalish@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 10:01 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Hcr 23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Nate Kalish and I am a resident of North Pole, AK. I am a hunter, a writer, a soldier and a conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

This legislation is representative of our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites. I think we've seen several times in the lower 48, that a more proactive approach is the way forward, and I feel this will encourage that.

I love this state, and it's wildlife is my passion. I will support any initiative that will protect their long term wellbeing.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

-Nate Kalish
314.341.4774

From: Kevin J Kehoe <kevinkehoe@alaskan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:13 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson

On behalf of the 600 members of the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation I am writing to thank you for your efforts to protect Alaska's Wildlife. Our membership consists of Alaska resident hunters, guides and outfitters, some non-resident sheep hunters, and even a few international sheep hunters all bound by their passion for wild places and the love of mountain hunting.

We wholeheartedly support this Resolution because it shifts the paradigm from a reactive to a proactive approach in preventing disease, parasites, and foreign pathogens from harming wildlife and even domestic animals. The current M.o.vi outbreak in wild sheep and goats is proof positive that the unthinkable can happen when we do not remain vigilant.

Thanks again for leading this effort. We stand ready to support your efforts in any way that we can.

Regards,

Kevin

Kevin J Kehoe
President
Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation



13845 Mainsail Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516
Office (907) 868-8861
Mobile (907) 441-6323
KevinKehoe@alaskan.com

From: Madeline Kelleyhouse <mkelleyhouse@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 5:40 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rebecca Schwanke <becky99588@yahoo.com>
Subject: Corrected Comments on HCR 23

When I wrote my comments yesterday I was unaware that ADF&G had radio collars on animals known to be infected. These infected animals should be culled immediately to prevent them from further spreading the infection. Keeping them in the population would be irresponsible.

Dear Representative Josephson;

Thank you for accepting my comments regarding HCR 23.

As a former director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G, under Governor Walter Hickel I support HCR 23 as a good step toward protecting Alaska's unique wildlife from introduced pathogens. Alaska's wildlife lacks immunity to parasites and diseases easily brought to our state via domestic livestock and game farm animals.

Whereas the economic value of Alaska's healthy wildlife is substantial and proven, the economic value of domestic animal production and game farming is almost inconsequential. During my tenure with ADF&G, especially in the capacity of DWC director, I worked closely with the Alaska Legislature to vigorously protect Alaska's wildlife from nonendemic parasites and diseases.

As a life long game manager and wildlife biologist, I know from history that prevention of introduction and transmission of devastating wildlife diseases and parasites is the only feasible course of action. Once wild populations are infected, it's extremely difficult and costly to address.

On the other hand, domestic and game farm animal inspections and culling can prevent spread of injurious afflictions to wildlife.

Given the importance of keeping Alaska's wildlife healthy deserves the support of every legislator.

Thank you,

David G. Kelleyhouse, Certified Wildlife Biologist
PO Box 478, Tok, AK 99780

From: Kelso, Andrew <AKelso@kentwa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:17 AM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: support for House Concurrent Resolution 23

I support House Concurrent Resolution 23

Andy Kelso

From: Nick K <bam_bam454@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 9:13 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23

Mr. Josephson,

I hope you have had a chance to review the facts and reasoning behind HCR23. It's hard to believe we don't already have legislation in place to test domestic animals for disease before allowing importation. Sheep and goats are huge attractions and economic drivers in the state for hunters, tourists, and wildlife enthusiasts of all walks. Why risk that for a perceived inconvenience by a comparatively tiny group of livestock owners? WSF will even foot the bill for the livestock owners. There is no excuse. We have a valuable resource and a simple way to help protect it. Please support HCR23.

Thank you,
Nick Krynski

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 7:15 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR 23-support

Representative Josephson and the members of the House Resource Committee:

I greatly appreciate and support the introduction of HJR 23, regarding the prevention of the spread of pathogens among wild and domestic animals. Several of my friends and neighbors here in Kenny Lake raise domestic animals, including sheep and goats, and I appreciate that this resolution is designed to help them as well as the Dall's sheep and mountain goats that I enjoy seeing, and on a few lucky occasions, eating.

Sincerely,
Ruth McHenry

--

Ruth McHenry
HC60 Box 306T
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-3644

From: Deborah Moore <office@alaskaprohunter.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Letter of Support HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

I'm writing to you today in support of HCR 23. This resolution is needed now more than ever with the recent discovery of M.ovi in Alaskan sheep and goats. We need to promote all efforts that protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and nonendemic parasites.

Kind regards.

Deborah Moore, Executive Director

Alaska Professional Hunters Association
P.O. Box 240971
Anchorage, AK 99524
907-929-0619
office@alaskaprohunter.org
Website: alaskaprohunter.org

From: Matt Moore <Matt.Moore@akrehab.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:04 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23 - resolution to enhance efforts to protect wildlife & domestic animals from diseases

Rep. Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee,

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Matt Moore I live in Anchorage, District 27. I am a dedicated bowhunter, conservationist and serve on the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee. At our March meeting, an AK Department of Fish and Game biologist made a presentation regarding Dall sheep in different mountain ranges. The purpose was to compare the different population sets and determine what metrics were the same and what things were different and how they impacted sheep populations. The biologists studied sheep habitat, browse, reproductive rates, changing home ranges, weather, predation and other factors. In particular, it was mentioned that some viruses present in the lower 48 were seen for the first time in Alaska in 2017. It could be these viruses were previously present but undetectable. Improved collar and tracking devices allowed the biologist to take nasal swab samples in a timely fashion and detect the virus, *mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*. This particular virus has devastated sheep populations in the lower 48 and could do so in Alaska.

That presentation and discussion of the virus reminded me once again of the delicate balance of nature and our role in wildlife management, protection.

HCR23 re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from threats including foreign pathogens and parasites. I personally appreciate that HCR23 is broadly written.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Sincerely,

Matt Moore
7035 Tulugak Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507
907 360 09005

From: Dave M <akmg133@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 10:35 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR 23 Support Letter

Dear Sir,

My name is David Morris. I am a life long 54 year Alaska Resident and Master Guide #133.

I want to express my strong support of HCR 23 legislation.

We must immediately do everything humanly possible to curtail the spread of infectious disease in our wild game populations.

This invaluable wild game resource represents billions of dollars in revenue to the state, and immeasurable aesthetic value to a multitude of user groups. It must not be jeopardized by a select few special interest domestic wildlife "farmers" who overall seem to have little or no concern over the consequences of their actions.

Respectfully,
David Morris

From: Angela Murray
To: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#); [House Resources](#)
Cc: [aaron bloomquist](#)
Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 1:22:55 PM

A lot of Alaskans have a tendency to think that since we are separated geographically from the rest of our nation, that somehow Alaska is immune from things that affect the rest of the United States. I'm a life-long Alaskan who has had those thoughts on a variety of issues, but we would be positively remiss to believe that we are somehow immune from it all. My name is Angie Murray from Anchorage and I am writing in support of HCR 23. My grandparents homesteaded in the Copper River Valley in the 1930's. This great State's natural resources sustained them and their 4 kids as they lived off the land. My grandfather became a well-respected bush pilot in the State and I have very fond childhood memories of their homestead and spending time at sheep camp. My uncles and cousins still live in the Copper River Valley and hunt for subsistence as well as work as guides for hunters. I am not personally a hunter. But I in no way need to be in order to understand the ramifications of the recent news announcing that some of our wild goat and sheep have begun to test positive for foreign pathogens (specifically M.Ovi) that have resulted in catastrophic die-offs in other areas of North America. The Alaska State Legislature has the responsibility to manage its natural resources for the benefit of all the people of the state and what our wild and domestic sheep/goats need now is some proactive measures taken by the State's wildlife managers. HCR 23 gives those managing Departments much needed guidance as they engage in actions to prevent the spread of these diseases and pathogens. If these foreign pathogens spread, it could devastate the wild goat and sheep population for generations to come. And any time a species' population is devastated, there are ripple effects throughout their habitat as symbiosis is disrupted. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We know the pathogen M.Ovi is here in Alaska now, as a result, the State needs to get ahead of this disease and foreign pathogen issue and I believe HCR 23 encourages the wildlife managing Departments to do just that.

Thank you.

Angie Murray

From: Burt Myers <ibbuffalo@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:26 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR 23

Please support HCR 23 !!

LTC Burt Myers (Ret)

-----Original Message-----

From: MTA <fullcurl@mtaonline.net>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:02 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Rohn Nelson. I live in Wasilla and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but it is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also viewing wildlife throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Rohn Nelson

Open Buckle Auction Service

<http://www.openbuckle.com>

3800 East Ruth Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 982-5551

From: Neumann_Frank <Neumann_Frank@asdk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 9:34 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 23

Dear Representative Josephson, and House Resource Committee.

Writing you to encourage you to help move this HCR 23 forward. We need to take this issue very serious. With the recent news that there has been confirmed case of the M.oiv virus in our wild sheep population, the time to act is now.

Thanks

Frank Neumann

Chugiak, Ak.

907-529-0892

From: Steven Opat
To: [Rep. Andy Josephson: House Resources](#)
Subject: Support of HCR 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 12:32:18 PM

Rep. Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee,

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Steven Opat and I live in Fairbanks. I am a passionate mountain hunter and ardent conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting. Year round, I dedicate significant amounts of time, energy, and money in support of wild sheep by volunteering for the Alaska Wild Sheep foundation.

I understand that this piece of legislation re-emphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even *domestic* animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites. My support for this legislation is greatly increased by this inclusion of domestic animals. I believe this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Enjoying wildlife is not just a hobby. It's beyond even a passion. It's my lifestyle. I live for the outdoors and am perpetually infatuated with wild Alaska. This legislative measure is an important step in protecting the Alaskan dream for all who fall under its umbrella.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

Sincerely,

Steven J Opat
[507-259-0697](tel:507-259-0697)
Opat1919@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

We have lived in Sitka since 1991, and have a Hunting Guide business in SE Alaska since that time. We have been guiding Mountain Goat Hunters in unit 1 C since 1990. As Alaskan residents, we have enjoyed Mountain Goat Hunting and wild Sheep hunting as a family and then with our children since about that time as well. This is a huge reason why we have chosen to live in Alaska, even though the cost of living and economy is going thru drastic changes, why we continue to do so.

Please do not underestimate the draw that these animals play in the enjoyment of people who live here, along with what it brings in in the Tourism, guiding, and hunting Industry. People from all walks of life enjoy viewing these animals, let alone if you enjoy subsistence hunting, what it can mean to a family financially. As far as the guiding industry, for instance, 2/3 of our income comes in from Mountain Goat guiding alone. Without this we would not be able to operate a viable business in Alaska.

We can tell you that both of these animals are a huge draw in the hunting world, both nationally and internationally. I can only imagine a rise in value and interest in Alaskan hunting in general, due to the worlds political climate at this time. A hunters big dream is to come to Alaska, and experience the amazing wilderness and abundance and options of hunts that they can choose from. I can't imagine if we loose not just one, but potentially two big game species because of this disease what that would do to our industry. To us the decision is pretty clear, the state has a responsibility to protect its natural resources, at any cost. We feel very strongly that we need to be protecting these species as much as possible to ensure the future of enjoying these animals and securing the economic potential for the state as well. We are in full support of HCR23.

Sincerely,

Ann-Marie & Bruce Parker
Parker Guide Service
PO Box 6290
Sitka, AK. 99835
(907)747-6026
parkerguideservice@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck <jrsmom@ptialaska.net>

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:03 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR23

I urge you to support House Concurrent Resolution 23. It's important that we be proactive in the protection of our wildlife resources from disease.

Charles Rodgers

Soldotna

From: crtsales <crtsales@cvinternet.net>

Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 7:48 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 23.

Dear Sir:

I would request you support the house Concurrent resolution 23:

Thank You for any help!

Allen Sanders

PO Box 79

Copper Center, AK 99573

From: Karen Steen <steen@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 12:56 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support HCR 23
Importance: High

House Resources Committee – Dear Sirs;

We urge you to support HCR 23.

It is critical the State do everything in its power to prevent the transmission of diseases and pathogens from domestic animals to our native wildlife. It is much more effective and less costly to prevent the problems than to attempt to eradicate them after the fact.

We are hunters, conservationists and longtime Alaskans who appreciate our wild resources. It is criminal that the state did nothing to stop the spread of M.o.vi (an infections respiratory pathogen) from domestic to wild sheep and goats. State officials were aware of the potential and choose to do nothing to stop the migration of the disease. Now we have to live with the consequences. Let's be a more responsible state and do all we can to protect our unique wildlife.

THX Nick and Karen Steen
3201 N Greentree St
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 745-2739

From: Bill Stevenson <akbill4ever@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:06 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HCR-23

To all concerned,

My name is Bill Stevenson a long time Alaska resident and lives in the Glacier View area half way between Anchorage and Glennallen in Game Management unit 13.

I personally have seen fluctuations in the Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat populations over the years both up and down. It would make good sense not add additional stress to the natural native wild life of Alaska by introducing any new disease, parasites or pathogens.

The wildlife of Alaska has a value beyond a simple monetary value, a simple and fitting phrase would be "priceless".
Please support HCR-23

Thank you

Bill Stevenson

From: Brian Stoltz <brian@farnorthrealestate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:26 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Andy,

Just wanted express my support for HCR23 - I am a passionate hunter and conservationist. I think wildlife in Alaska is an asset above all else and should be protected at all costs and I think HCR23 is a step in the right direction.

Thanks!

Brian

Brian Stoltz | MBA
Broker | Owner
Far North Real Estate, LLC
www.myfairbankshome.com
cell: 907-388-4135

From: John Sturgeon
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Support for HCR-23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:02:31 AM

Members of the House Resource Committee

I would like to add my support for HCR-23. I believe the transmission of a disease from domestic animals to our wild animals is a ticking time bomb. Movi has already been discovered in our wild sheep populations. In the lower 48 this disease when introduced into wild sheep populations has seen die offs as high as 70-80%!!! This would be devastating to Alaska's wild sheep populations. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important piece of legislation. It will provide much need direction to the Board of Game and the ADF&G.

Best regards

John Sturgeon
Avid sheep hunter

4450 Shoshoni Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
cell -907-230-0072
frontiertradellc@aol.com

From: Henry D. Tiffany IV
To: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Cc: [House Resources](#); [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)
Subject: Support of HRC 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:56:22 AM

Dear Representative Josephson,

I would like you to know that as a lifelong Alaskan, born in Fairbanks, I fully support HRC 23. I am an avid outdoorsman, big game guide, hunter and conservationist. I have had the privilege and pleasure of hunting our wild Dall sheep for almost 30 years and believe it is imperative that a policy supporting the prevention of disease transmission from domestic animals to wild animals is critical.

We had been spared this threat but as a member of the inaugural Thin Horn Sheep Summit in April of 2014 in Vancouver, BC it was alarming to learn of the potential threat Alaska faced by the spread of domestic animal diseases into wild animal populations. This is now an unfortunate reality that must be addressed immediately before any more loss of our wild animals can occur.

It is my strongest desire and hope to continue pursuing our majestic wild Dall sheep in Alaska both professionally as a guide and as a resident hunter for the rest of my long life. Equally important to me is that we have a long term sustainable population of wild, disease free Dall sheep so that my young children can be afforded the same unique and treasured experiences hunting Alaska's wild Dall sheep population that I have cherished for many, many years.

To this end, I fully and heartedly support HRC 23 and urge, and wish for, its swift passage. I thank you for your time, consideration and service to our great State of Alaska and should you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or on my cell phone at 907-223-3226.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Robert Tobey
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Support House Concurrent Resolution 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 8:22:58 AM

I support House Concurrent Resolution 23 to protect Alaska's natural resources. The import and spread of domestic animal diseases can be devastating to Alaska's wildlife. This bill is a reasonable and way overdue action to address this issue.

Robert W. Tobey DVM

Sent from my iPad

From: Jbntnt <jbntnt@alaskan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:47 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HCR23

Rep Josephson and Members of the Resource Committee

I would like to express my support for HCR23 and thank you for sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

My name is Bryan Tulare. I live in Eagle River and I am a dedicated hunter and conservationist. I am particularly passionate about sheep hunting and mountain hunting in particular.

Although I enjoy sheep hunting I understand that this piece of legislation reemphasizes our commitment to protecting all wildlife and even domestic animals from a host of threats including foreign pathogens and parasites.

Wildlife is not only my hobby but hunting is my passion. I enjoy not only hunting but also fishing, hiking, ATVing, viewing wildlife, prospecting and camping throughout the State. I think this will encourage a more proactive approach to protecting animals and I am therefore very much in favor of it.

Thank you again for your support of wildlife.

v/r

Bryan Tulare
19007 First St
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
907-529-6669

From: Nathan Turner <alaskanate@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:06 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Cc: Ted Spraker <tedspraker@gmail.com>; Tibbles, Kristy R (DFG) <kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov>

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 23 (HCR 23)

Dear representative Josephson,

As you may recall from confirmation hearings, I am a current member of the Alaska Board of Game. I came to Alaska from a multi-generational farming background in upstate New York. I have spent the last 29 years in Alaska directly depending on the wild resources of our state to provide both direct sustenance and the primary economic benefit for my family through both subsistence harvests and guided hunting opportunities.

Maintaining the continued viability of our wild sheep and goat populations brings benefit all Alaskans through a variety of uses and values, and is in many ways central to maintaining our state's identity as one of the few remaining wild, healthy, and largely undisturbed regions in the world. I also recognize and appreciate the values and uniqueness of Alaska's small-Ag community, and the challenges this community faces in our northern climes.

I am writing to you in support of HCR 23, which I believe is both a timely and necessary action by the legislature. The Alaska Board of Game has been challenged in recent years with an increasing awareness that our state contains approximately 25% of the wild sheep populations in north America, and that there have been great losses to both wild sheep and domestic populations elsewhere on the continent in recent years due to the threats identified in HCR 23. Other wildlife populations in Alaska are now facing the introduction of new and expanding threats, broadly identified by this resolution, which are increasingly coming to light with new observations and better research.

The administrative structure of our state government as it relates to wildlife and domestic stocks inherently limits the state's ability to adequately prevent or mitigate these threats since no agency has purview over both wild and domestic populations, and some agencies. The Board of Game does have limited tools available to address the introduction of threats to our wildlife populations, but believes that the preferred method is to have a unified effort across state agencies to identify, understand, and address threats to both wild and domestic populations in a comprehensive manner that minimizes impacts to the people of our state as well. Taking such an approach will help limit the potential for the development of worse-case scenarios that have been documented to have occurred elsewhere, and which have at times had severe impacts on both wildlife populations and the Ag-community.

I have heard that there some opposition to this resolution by others, which is unfortunate if true. I do not see this as a partisan issue, or a topic that needs divide one Alaskan community from any other. The goal of the resolution is well stated to recognize and address the threats to both domestic and wild populations, and we have enough evidence before us to determine the need for a unified and increased effort to research, understand, and address these risks to the greatest degree possible for the benefit of every Alaskan community.

Sincerely,

Nathan Turner
vice -chairman, Alaska Board of Game
registered guide-outfitter #1036

From: Blake Vandenberg <bvandenberg@lssu.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:33 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Cc: aaron bloomquist <bloomya@hotmail.com>
Subject: HCR 23

Hello,

My name is Blake Vandenberg and I reside in Sitka, Alaska. I have been living in Alaska going on four years now and have finally fulfilled my lifelong dream of becoming an Alaskan hunting guide and commercial fisherman. The beautiful scenery, incredible abundance of majestic creatures, and love of adventure is what drew me from the Midwest. Ever since I was a young boy I have dreamed of coming to Alaska to work and live and chase the iconic white ghosts of the mountains. Dall sheep are the epitome of Alaskan big game hunting in my opinion. No other animal will put a hunter's physical and mental toughness to the test, like that of the sheep. However, with the recent discovery of *M. ovi*, there is a possibility that we could lose these, and other important species like the Mountain Goat.

The Dall Sheep has been and should remain a sigil for hunting in the great state of Alaska. This recent discovery of the *M. ovi* pathogen needs to be addressed before it becomes a problem we cannot fix. HCR 23 will give state biologists and other agencies some of the help they need in the containment and prevention of future disease and pathogen outbreaks. This is the first of many problems the state could face if preemptive action is not taken. There have been documented cases of large scale die offs in other sheep states from this particular pathogen, and as conservationists first and foremost, we simply cannot stand idly by and let this happen in our home state. Not only are sheep a valuable part of the Alaskan economy, both for tourists shooting them with film and for hunters looking to fulfill lifelong dreams, but they are necessary and important parts of the ecosystems they reside in.

Whether you are a hard core mountain hunter or a passionate environmentalist, the choice is clear, something needs to be done. HCR 23 is a great first step in preserving what we hold dear here in Alaska, our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Blake Vandenberg

From: Treasure Hunter Lodge Alaska <treasurehunterlodge@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:38 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Dall Sheep

Andy,

My wife and I are in full support of HCR 23.

Transmission of pathogens from domestic livestock to wild sheep has been proven time and again to be deadly for the wild sheep.

Please stop this from happening anymore.

Alaska's wild sheep are a huge economic and recreational benefit to our great state and its people.

Please support HCR 23.

Thank you!

Treasure Hunter Lodge LLC

Kurt Whitehead-Alaskan Master Guide #211

Trina Nation-Alaskan Assistant Guide #7119

www.AlaskaGlacierAdventures.com

www.AlaskaBlackBearHunts.com

www.AlaskaDeerHunts.com

www.AlaskaFishingOutfitter.com

www.AlaskaHuntingFishingReports.com

Treasure Hunter Lodge on Facebook

PO Box 388

Klawock, AK 99925 (907) 738-5000

From: whitmore_reed <reedwhitmore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Andy, the Sheep need your support

Andy,

I read the article about the Dahl Sheep (actually and originally Dall's Sheep) and the pathogens from domestic animal. We need regulation to keep our wild populations safe. I hope you are on this, this is important to keep our environment pristine as possible.

Reed Whitmore
907 223-1110

From: dennis@idohuntak.com <dennis@idohuntak.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:55 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support of HCR 23

Dear Representative Josephson,

My name is Dennis Zadra and I live in Cordova, Alaska. I have been guiding sheep hunters and hunting them myself since 1992. They are an incredible animal and epitomize the wild of Alaska. M.ovi has been devastating to wild sheep populations in the lower 48, and it would be tragic to have an outbreak up here. Our sheep are finally recovering from the harsh winter of 2012/13 and this new threat could greatly impede that recovery.

I am in full support of HCR 23.

Respectfully,

Dennis M. Zadra

From: Jack Atcheson, Jr. <jack.jr@atcheson.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:40 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HRC23

Representative Josephson allow me to thank you of taking time from your life to attempt to help Alaska's people and wildlife. I am not from Alaska but from Montana. Please support HCR23. I watch the wild sheep and mtn goat slowly fading from the landscape here in Montana. We know what the cause is but once in the wild system there is no stopping the die offs. MT has no choise in the matter but in Alaska you have that choise to push back.

Regards

Jack Atcheson

From: Josh Chadd
To: [House Resources](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: Support of HCR 23
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 6:46:02 AM

Alaska House Resources Committee,

My name is Joshua Chadd and I'm a registered guide in Alaska. While I currently live in Montana, I was born and raised in the great Northern state and I return there each year to enjoy the awesome hunting experiences the state offers. It has recently come to my attention that our Dall sheep and Mountain Goats have been found with M.o.vi. This crushes me, not only for the implications of future hunting in Alaska but what it means for the species as a whole.

Something must be done. I'm writing you this short email to let you know, I'm in full support of House Concurrent Resolution 23!

Thanks,

Joshua Chadd
Alaska Registered Guide #1346
Majestic Mountain Outfitters
(406)347-5404
<http://www.majesticmountainoutfitters.com>

From: Brett Jefferson <bkjefferson@tristateltd.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Support for HCR23

Dear Representative Josephson,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, please find attached to this email a letter to you and the Members of the Resource Committee in support of Alaska House Concurrent Resolution No. 23. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance to this legislation.

We sincerely appreciate your concern and support of wildlife in Alaska!

Brett K. Jefferson, P.L.S.

Director

Legislative Affairs Committee Chair

~ Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn ~



P.O. Box 27494

Las Vegas, NV 89126-1494

Cellular: (775) 830-5848

Email: BKJefferson@TriStateLtd.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Casey Johnson <yotepatrol11@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:42 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Cc: bloomya@hotmail.com

Subject: Support HCR 23

Hello,

My name is Casey Johnson and I am a guide and aspiring outfitter in Alaska. I would like to take a minute to ask for your support of HCR 23.

Alaska is a special place where many people come to hunt and recreate every year. The resources that this wonderfully state has, such as wildlife are a very important part of that recreation. With the new discovery of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi) in the Dall sheep of 13A and the mountain goats of 15C, it is time to take action.

Alaska is not like the lower 48 states of our nation. It presents unique opportunities that you cannot find elsewhere. We need to get in front of this disease before the wildlife and the state suffer from it.

Please support HCR 23!

Casey Johnson

Cody, WY

(307)421-8302

From: Keele Johnson <keelejohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:03 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HCR 23

3/20/2018

Dear Representative Josephson:

My name is Keele Johnson. I served as a member of the Utah House of Representatives for 8 years and as a member of the Utah Wildlife Board for a six-year term. I have been actively involved in the Utah wild sheep management programs for over 40 years as a guide and an interested citizen. For the last ten years I have also guided for Dall Sheep in Alaska.

We had thriving Desert Bighorn herds near my home in South-Eastern Utah. Then a cattle rancher decided to put domestic sheep on an area called Hatch Point which was Desert Bighorn habitat. A couple of my friends witnessed Bighorn rams mixing with the domestic sheep. The wild sheep had no immunity to *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) and it wasn't long before the die off caused by virial pneumonia began. It was like watching dominos fall. First the Canyonlands herd, then the North San Juan and finally the South San Juan. That was over 25 years ago. Currently the Canyonlands and the South San Juan are still struggling at a small fraction of their former numbers and the North San Juan was a total loss. The surviving sheep are still carriers of the Movi pathogen. Movi is especially hard on the lambs when they get stressed. The herd doesn't do well when you lose most of the lambs.

I vividly remember the day when the Utah Director of Wildlife Resources told the board that we had a disease outbreak in one of our Rocky Mountain Bighorn herds and they were concerned about it spreading to neighboring populations. He asked the board to approve a total removal of the infected herd. That was a sad vote but one that had to be approved.

What would I recommend Alaska do to prevent this nightmare? In the short term the state should require blood tests for every domestic sheep and goat in Alaska. Those that test positive for Movi need to be removed. Second, the state should require double fencing around all domestic goat and sheep pastures with a ten-foot buffer between the fences. Third NO domestics should be allowed within 15 miles of Dall sheep habitat. Fourth, to keep the disease from spreading, the state should immediately remove ALL Dall sheep from the affected area. Do not let it spread to the Chugach and the Alaska Ranges. Hopefully this will not require a total removal of all Dall sheep from the Talkeetna mountains.

I know we all value our American freedoms and hate to dictate what happens with people's property. However, at times people's property can infringe on other valuable assets and other's rights for a livelihood. In this case domestic sheep and goats are endangering a native species and the rights of others for recreational viewing, hunting, and outfitters and guides to make a living. The Dall sheep in my view should have a higher value and right to exist. In the big picture domestic sheep and goats are not a critical part of Alaska's economy as they are in other states. The citizens of Alaska should ask themselves if it is worth losing an Alaska treasure in order that a few people can have their hobby ranches? Because of the dangerous, expensive, and tragic effects of the pathogens carried by domestic sheep and goats over a period of 10 to 15 years Alaska should phase in a total ban and removal of all domestic sheep and goats from the state.

Sincerely,

Keele Johnson
255 West 600 North
Blanding, Utah 84511
435-459-9886

From: Jeff McAllister <4wapati@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2018 6:48 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; House Resources
<House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: bloomya@hotmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email in response to the terrible news out of Alaska, that Dall sheep and goats there have tested positive for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* or *M.ovi*.

My name is Jeff McAllister, and I'm from Lehi, Utah. I have become addicted to wild sheep ever since I had the great fortune of drawing a bighorn sheep tag here in Utah several years ago. I was able to spend several weeks in pursuit of an outstanding ram. It was an experience I'll never forget. Since that hunt in 2012, I have watched the Stansbury herd, that I hunted, drastically reduced from a die off due to *M.ovi*. What a tragedy it is to lose such a valuable resource, and watch the majestic sheep of that range obliterated in a matter of months. This simply should not be allowed to happen!

Since my experience in 2012, I have dreamed about someday going to Alaska, and experiencing the thrill of Alaska, and the thrill of hunting the thin horn species of wild sheep that thrive there. I still hope to do that someday.

I, and many others, have a deep seated love and respect for wild sheep, and believe that the great people of Alaska have the same feelings when it comes to wild sheep in their home state. These sheep represent everything that is great about Alaska, from the wild places they thrive in, and their resilient way of life in the harsh environment where they live. As an avid hunter and outdoors-man, I also know and understand the economic benefit that these wild sheep have for the state of Alaska as well.

I implore you to do whatever is necessary to protect these valuable resources, and ensure that wild sheep continue to thrive on the landscape, as they have for hundreds of years. Please take this threat serious, and be proactive in stopping the spread of this disease. Don't let what is happening here in Utah, all over the west with bighorns, happen in the great wilds of Alaska. I hope to visit there soon, and continue my love affair with wild sheep.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Jeff McAllister

1050 N. 790 E.

Lehi, Utah 84043

4wapati@gmail.com

801-722-8597

From: Mike Swan <mike.swan@scsd2.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 5:27 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson
<Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Wild sheep in Alaska

My name is Mike Swan from Sheridan Wyoming. I have been a hunter all my life and have had the opportunity to hunt big horn sheep in Wyoming. I have not been to Alaska yet my dream is to travel to and hunt wild sheep there. Wild sheep define wilderness for me and are truly magnificent animals that live in some of the most breathtaking mountains. We must protect these magnificent animals from domestic sheep and goats. Wild sheep are an important economic driver to the economy in Alaska. People come from all over the world to hunt these wild sheep and goats. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike Swan
1414 North Heights Drive
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

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Mike Swan
Assistant Principal
Sheridan High School
(307)672-2495 ext. 3119
mike.swan@scsd2.com

From: Karen Yates <dkyates@bigpond.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 8:53 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Cc: bloomya@hotmail.com
Subject: House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 23

My name is Dennis Yates. I live in the city of Brisbane in Australia.

I have never hunted Wild Sheep but have been a keen hunter of other species for over 40 years.

I have been interested in mountain hunting for most of my hunting life and view it as the pinnacle of the sport and way of life. In my hemisphere there are no Wild Sheep but we have other caprine and cervine game that are a peak challenge.

I have been specifically interested in Wild Sheep since the early 1980's when a friend of mine gave me a copy of "Wild Sheep" magazine – this was the official magazine to the earlier organisation of the Wild Sheep Foundation. This simple act sparked an interest in Wild Sheep and their conservation which I have maintained ever since. The fragility of their survival as a genus is very important to me as conservationist and hunter. Alaskan sheep in particular are the last bastion of free ranging naturally occurring herds in North America which up till recently were believed to be free of the potentially devastating *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*.

I would one day like to hunt Alaskan Wild Sheep and if age beats this dream I at least would like to see them free ranging or at least know that they are still thriving and healthy.

I suspect that the economic importance of Alaskan sheep hunting is extremely significant in that state at several levels. A recent independent study on hunting in an Australian State recently showed how economically vital hunting is to the National, State and local communities.

I support House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 23.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Yates

Brisbane, Australia