

DATE: March 23, 2018

TO: The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee
Alaska State Senate

FROM: Wallace and Jerryne Cole
Denali National Park, AK 99755

RE: HB 105

We are writing to encourage the passage of HB 105 out of the Senate Resources Committee.

We are longtime residents of the Denali area and are retired from a business in the center of the park that caters to extended-stay visitors to Alaska who come to observe and photograph its wildlife, whether viewed from along the park road or while hiking Denali's backcountry. From our experience, rare opportunities to observe wolves in the wild are more significant to many park visitors than are more predictable sightings of grizzlies.

Inevitably, wolves potentially visible to park visitors do meander onto state lands north and east of the park's boundaries. Wolf hunting and trapping in those areas are a direct threat to Denali's viewable wildlife. Further, disruption of entire packs can occur when breeding wolves are killed during critical denning and mating times. The seasons are long and bag limits are large, so the risk to viewable wolves can be significant.

We believe that the state's interests would be well-served to:

1. Provide as much opportunity for viewable wildlife in places where they can readily be observed, such as Denali National Park.
2. Promote the best possible science in the wolf research program that has continued since the 1930s with collaboration between both state and federal employees.
3. Conserve predators where there is a particular benefit to Alaskans with diverse interests. Such a consideration comports with the state constitution and the roles and responsibilities of the state legislature.
3. Treat HB 105 as a business-friendly concept on behalf of those of us who are involved in tourism in one of the state's most popular destinations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our perspective as part of the Committee's record.