

March 23, 2018

Senator Cathy Giessel, Resources Committee Chair
Senator Click Bishop, Resource Committee Member
Senator John Coghill, Resources Committee Member

Dear Senators Giessel, Bishop, and Coghill:

Please do not pass HB 105. This bill is unnecessary because it pretends to solve an imaginary problem, abolishes subsistence opportunity, extinguishes the livelihood of some Alaskans, and is driven by emotional wolf worship rather than ANY science. This bill, contrary to what its supporters suggest, is not beneficial to the state economically or in any other way. There are no scientific facts nor is there a conservation concern to justify such a buffer zone. HB105 is nothing more than an emotionally-driven “theological” giveaway.

Do you recall under Governor Murkowski the green lobby’s blackmail threat to invoke a tourist boycott to Alaska if the Denali wolf buffer zone wasn’t implemented? Well, the buffer zone went away, but did the tourists? No. And their numbers are increasing every year. The suggestion that tourism will increase based simply on the existence of a wolf harvest exclusion zone is pure fantasy. Tourists don’t come to Alaska just to see wolves. Wolves are an “also-ran” on a tourist’s wish list, and even if a buffer zone existed, the likelihood of seeing wolves is still almost zero. I’ve never seen one.

Subsistence opportunity to hunt and trap on state land would be shut off if the buffer zone is established. So would the livelihoods of other Alaskans who depend on that land to feed their families directly or indirectly. Legalizing the buffer zone would take money out of the pockets and food off the table of Alaskans. This bill is dishonorable and has no redeeming outcomes. Creating a “stage” to showcase wolves which won’t likely “perform” as desired is simply ridiculous and a clear bait and switch plan to end hunting in the area. Tourists are merely the token shill to “save” wolves.

Denali National Park already has boundaries. To cut off hunting or trapping around the borders of the Park on state land is essentially creating more de facto federal land where Alaskans can’t hunt or trap. Too much of Alaska is already off limits to Alaskan hunters because of ANILCA.

The boundaries already exist. Let them do their job and please do not pass HB105.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for your service.

Karen Gordon
Fairbanks