

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

Senate Bill 149:

An Act providing a tax credit for certain contributions to a qualified
dog mushing corporation

Support Alaska's Mushing Sport Heritage Act

Dog mushing is the Official State Sport of Alaska. Mushing has a long and storied history going back millennia: from its development by indigenous Alaskans, to dog teams connecting and supplying mining and military camps, to the Nome Serum Run, to today's modern recreation and sport traditions. Today, dog mushing not only preserves our heritage, but also brings international attention to our state. Alaska's dog mushing races inject needed money and activity into the economies of dozens of small, rural Alaskan towns.

Senate Bill 149, the *Support Alaska's Mushing Sport Heritage Act* (SAMSHA) creates a stronger financial base of support for dog mushing by encouraging more private sector support through modest tax credits. By limiting the amount of credits and making them available on a "first come, first served" basis, SAMSHA will encourage earlier contributions to races. By incentivizing small and medium sized donations, SAMSHA will help dog mushing organizations build strong, diverse financial support from across the community. SAMSHA will foster Alaska's winter tourism industry, promote local businesses who support uniquely Alaskan events and diversify Alaska's economy.

SAMSHA tax credits will return 50% on donations from \$2,500 to \$5,000, 33% from \$5,001 to \$10,000 and 25% from \$10,001 up to \$25,000. Tax credits would be capped at \$7,900 for all donations over \$25,000. Under SAMSHA, a small business that donates \$2,000 can increase their donation to \$5,000 for just an additional \$500 after the \$2,500 credit from the state. The maximum amount of tax credits available to a race will be determined by the organization's total expenditures the previous year. Under SAMSHA, a large race such as the Iditarod could offer financial backers up to \$50,000 in tax credits. By capping the amount of credits available, SAMSHA's overall cost to the state is kept low.

I urge you to join me in supporting Alaska's Official State Sport and SB 149; the Support Alaska's Mushing Sport Heritage Act.