# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
## ALASKA CHAPTER

*2627 Ingra Street*
*Anchorage, AK 99508*


*13 February 2014*

*The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.*

The Honorable Dan Saddler
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Saddler,

I am writing in support of HB 246, "An act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge." This bill adds land that is already owned by the state to the Creamer's Field Refuge. It does not increase land ownership by the state, nor does it impose an additional financial burden on the state.

These lands border the refuge and were conveyed by private entities to the state with the intent that they be included within the refuge boundaries. Although the state now owns the land, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no management authority over them without legislative action. Thus, ADF&G cannot undertake habitat improvements or manage public access.

Creamer's Field is a valued refuge. Thousands of Alaskans and out-of-state visitors come to the refuge each year to view migratory birds and experience the outdoors. Your efforts will help ensure that the quality of the refuge remains undiminished.

I hope that you and others on the Resources Committee will support this legislation and forward it for consideration by other members of the House.

Sincerely,

Jerry Hupp
President, Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society