



Thu 3/26/2015 11:04 AM

Elise Wolf <ewolf97@gmail.com>

in support of House bill 137

To House Resources; Rep. David Talerico

Hello,

I am writing in support of the Amendment to HB137, Sections 1 and 2. AS.16.05.130

Re: Wildlife viewing emblems and support for ADF&W Conservation Emblem program.

I am thrilled to support this opportunity for Alaskans to support their Fish & Wildlife department. This is an extraordinarily good idea...and one that's time has come.

1.) Alaska is one of THE top places people dream about going to....and they bring a lot of money.

This fact has been repeated over and over to me as I chatted with visitors in various parts of the state in my own travels. A visitor on the ferry once told me that going to Alaska was the dream of her lifetime...and she was finally doing it at 70 years old. I have spoken to numerous people visiting and have heard the same thing.

She had set aside \$10,000 for the trip! All of it to go to our Alaskan businesses and to our Ferry! (Smart woman).

2.) It costs our state F & W money to manage the impacts of visitors.

Wildlife viewing is not benign - it brings a host of other management and maintenance costs for conservation of places, species, and other elements. It only makes sense that the state attempts to get these costs paid for.

While the emblem idea is a good one, without marketing the program it will flail about never gaining ground.

I would suggest an additional amendment with marketing requirements for the program.

Finally, an even better idea is to have a conservation tax (fee) that is placed on all things wildlife viewing related...cameras, etc....just an idea...I am sure no one will like it. But that is what the duck stamp is.....

Thank you for listening,

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AK resident for 30 years.

**Section 1. AS 16.05.130 is amended by adding:**

Section (g): Money accruing to the state from Alaska's fish and wildlife conservation emblem program shall be deposited into the Fish & Game Fund and shall be used by the department for conservation programs, including viewing, education and diversity.

**Section 2. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:**

Sec. 16.05. XXX Contributions to the Alaska's Fish and Wildlife Conservation emblem program

(1)The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall develop a fish and wildlife conservation emblem. Persons may contribute any amount to the fish and wildlife conservation emblem program and may elect to receive a certificate, decal, or other recognition offered by the department for a contribution of \$20 or more. Contributions and sale proceeds of items bearing the fish and wildlife conservation emblem will benefit the programs per AS 16.05.130(g).