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LIO Homer

Testimony on HB 137

To House Resources

To House Resources Committee:

Wildlife viewing is a huge economic engine for the state of Alaska that requires consideration.

<u>Viewing</u>	<u>Hunting</u>
Alaska Economic Activity of spending	
\$2,750,000,000 (Viewers)	\$1,326,000,000 (hunting)
One Billion more dollars spent by Wildlife viewers	

Jobs	
18,820 jobs	8,400 jobs

Labor Income	\$975,000,000	\$457,000,000
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Government Revenue	\$231,000,000	\$112,000,000
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We have been trying to assure this is a funding that allows accurate demographic profiling of the wildlife viewer/photographer to allow the huge constituency of silent contributors to join in conservation of our state wildlife .

This amendment allows the viewing constituency to have a dedicated opportunity to buy a license certificate, emblem or decal to support much needed ADFG wildlife diversity educational and conservation programs.

This can be accomplished by having a easily created no cost to the Dept database with a button called "wildlife viewing" on the new ADFG online licensing store.

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 then elect to receive a certificate, decal, or other recognition offered by the department for a contribution of \$10 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).

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