

-----Original Message-----

From: Mei Mei Evans [<mailto:m2evans@alaskapacific.edu>]

Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 8:33 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr
<Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: save Denali's wolves

Dear Andy Josephson and Geran Tarr:

I write in support of Denali's wolves. We now have an opportunity with HB 105 to protect them from the hunting and trapping that has so endangered their numbers. I hope you will both champion its cause among your legislative colleagues.

Thank you.

Mei Mei Evans, Ph.D.

From: Nina Faust [<mailto:aknina51@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 6:53 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Cc: Paul Seaton <Representative_Paul_Seaton@akleg.gov>; Gary Stevens <Senator_Gary_Stevens@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 105 "An Act establishing the Gordon Haber Denali Wolf Special Management Area."

P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

House Resources Committee

Alaska State House

Juneau AK

Dear Committee Members:

Denali National Park is one of the crown jewels of Alaska's National Parks, one that is on most visitors' list of "must see" places to watch wildlife, especially wolves. However, due to a lack of buffer around Denali National Park, a few local trappers have been allowed to trap in areas that were once protected, decimating Denali's highly visible wolf packs during the winter when they wander into these areas just outside the Park boundaries.

Wildlife viewing is a huge economic engine for Alaska. These wolves are far more valuable to Alaskans alive so that they can roam areas near the Park roads where visitors in buses can easily see and photograph them. Viewing opportunities have dropped significantly since the packs were trapped so heavily recently in the area designated in HB 105 as the "Gordon Haber Denali Wolf Special Management Area." Protecting this area from trapping and hunting of wolves will bring more visitor revenue to Alaska as the wolf packs rebuild and are once again available for viewing.

Establishing this special area will not greatly change hunting opportunities for many hunters, but it will have a huge impact on the health of wolf packs and the eventual improvement of wolf viewing within the park. This is a good idea that has already proven its worth when the area was protected in the past. It makes good economic sense to reinstate a protective buffer for wolves on the park boundary. I urge the Resources Committee to vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

From: millimom@xyz.net [<mailto:millimom@xyz.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:33 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 105

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you, Thank you for introducing HB 105, to permanently protect that part outside Denali Park that needs protection for the wolves of the park. I had not been to the Park in many years, but visited last year. Our summer visitors come to see wolves and other wildlife, including my guests. The other wildlife was there, but not the wolves. I still recall taking my grandson about 12 years ago, and we saw wolves and he was so thrilled.

I strongly support this bill and hope it will pass the Committee.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Milli Martin
PO Box 2652
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-6652

From: Elizabeth Cuadra` [<mailto:cuadra@gci.net>]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 10:42 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please Support HB 105

Denali wolves need the protection of HB 105. Alaska needs the tourism income, too. With a Board of Game that is so anti-wolves, it takes an act of the Legislature to get the right thing done.

Dorothy E. Cuadra, cuadra@gci.net

Resident at 9151 Skywood Lane, Juneau, AK (Alaskan since 1977)

From: Sean Cahoon [<mailto:sean.cahoon@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 12:11 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB 105

Dear Reps. Josephson and Tarr,

I am writing to express my support for HB 105 to establish a no-harvest buffer zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve (DNPP). Under the current policy, wolves are under major threat of extirpation which could lead to cascading effects on ecosystem and landscape dynamics. Removal of wolves in other locations (Yellowstone NP) has rippled through the ecosystem and should be a warning of the harmful effects a declining population of keystone predators can have on landscape processes and ecosystem services. In addition to the ecological consequences, the chances of wolf sightings in DNPP has plummeted since the buffer zone was removed, reducing the quality of visitor experiences which could eventually lead to declining attendance and tourism-generated revenue. Wolves should be preserved for the benefit of all, not just a handful of hunters and trappers.

I look forward the advancement of this bill and hope you will prioritize this valuable and sustainable resource.

Sean Cahoon

From: Wayne Hall [<mailto:shadow@matnet.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 9:41 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB105

Dear Representative Josephson,

I have lived in Alaska since 1978 and have always supported a more balanced wildlife management in Alaska. I support HB105 to establish an area closed to the hunting and trapping of wolves in the area northeast of Denali National Park. The hunting and trapping of wolves in that area is by only a few people. Yet the excessive killing of wolves there impacts not only the Denali National Park ecosystem but also the non-consumptive use by thousands of Alaska residents and visitors. Even if it is only viewed from an economic perspective, which has certainly become more an issue to the State of Alaska, the far more beneficial use of wolves in that area is through the revenue generated by visitation rather than the comparatively tiny income derived by one or two individuals eliminating wolves from the area. The sheer national and international bad will created by the treatment afforded wild predators by the State of Alaska statewide will only increase over time. To allow wolves of such importance to be eliminated from the Denali ecosystem only accelerates and adds to the negative impact on an important source of revenue. Far better for the State to act to protect wolves in the area. The Alaska Board of Game, as it has been contrived for decades on behalf of hunting and trapping special interests, will never reinstate the buffer zone. I am glad to see you have initiated this positive action to do it through legislation instead.

I would like to request my comments here to be entered as part of the record of the hearing before the Resources Committee.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Wayne Hall

Anchorage

From: Daniel Bissinger [<mailto:dan.bissinger@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 5:54 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 105 - comment

Thank you for considering my comment on this important subject.

I would like to extend on my comment to the Board of Game I submitted on 2/2/17 apropos the comment period on the same topic:

Studies conducted by eminent biologists (Murie, Haber, Mech, Ripple and countless others, I'm sure) have shown that wolves have inhabited Denali National Park and interior Alaska for at least a thousand years. The work of a handful of hunters, trappers and wolf control programs have dismantled the right of wolves to live, and park visitors to view them in their natural habitat, in a matter of decades. In doing so, we as a people have demonstrated our inability to live in wilderness without destroying it.

HB 105 will likely configure the values of hiking, photography, camping, and enjoyment of wolf sightings to the preservation of wolf habitat. Perhaps even the wolf as a genetic reserve will be assessed, "a scientific yardstick by which we may measure the world in its natural balance against the world and its manmade imbalance" as Wallace Stegner once described in his "Wilderness Letter" regarding the role of our natural world.

Not only have we surrendered our synergy with wilderness, but we have also surrendered the "Wilderness Idea" as Stegner put it; 'a resource in itself... spiritual and mystical but perhaps incomprehensible to the practical minded who may regard anything that can't be moved with a bulldozer to be mystical'. Untampered wilderness, though, is every bit as spiritual and mystical as church; a place where we may recharge, find sanity, and feel insignificant, competent, vertical in the world, and look a long way. This is the same idea that human beings can live with other creatures without destroying them -- that we can assign value to wilderness beyond their economic uses and that we as people benefit from wilderness 'even if for ten years we never set foot in it, simply because it is there' and the knowledge that there is still perhaps something left untamed on Earth. We need wilderness as much as wilderness needs us, and we cannot have wilderness in parts. It exists only in whole with minimal human disturbance. When one species is eradicated, the entire ecosystem is imbalanced.

Trophic cascade is highly pertinent to ecosystems inhabited by wolves; the studies conducted in Yellowstone over the past 20 years have demonstrated this. They show us that animals are best managed by themselves, devoid of human involvement and most especially devoid of archaic predator control programs which were invalidated as effective management strategies several decades ago. There is absolutely no scientific basis for contemporary command-and-control programs. Studies have shown, for example, ("The Case Against Wolf and Bear Control In

Alaska" Haber, 2006) that wolves have negligible effects on moose, caribou, and sheep populations in Alaska and most often prey on the weakest animals -- half of the time not hunting but scavenging on carcasses from animals aged, diseased, or weakened by harsh winters. The predator-prey relationship keeps respective populations in check -- what Haber called "systems management". There are high biological, scientific, and ethical costs of killing wolves (Ibid.). By establishing a no hunting/trapping buffer adjacent to Denali National Park where wolves often travel and den, wolves can better serve the ecosystems they are entitled to inhabit, park visitors can enjoy them, and the 'Wilderness Idea' may be upheld.

Alaskans can do better.

We can live with wolves, enjoy them, and respect ourselves and appreciate life more fully. We can do this simply because of the knowledge that wolves exist and that we had a choice to exterminate them, again, but didn't.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comment and for your work spearheading the Haber Buffer.

--

(302) 383-5876

danbissinger@gmail.com

From: selowe [<mailto:selowe@gci.net>]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 1:08 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: I support HB 105 to protect wolves.

Hello Rep. Josephson:

I enthusiastically support HB 105 that would establish a no hunting/trapping area on state land adjacent to the northeastern boundary of Denali Park where wolves are targeted. It is shameful that Alaskans have allowed wolves to be persecuted for so long. We humans are not the only valid residents of our state that deserve respect. Our wild animals are a national and international treasure that draw millions of people throughout the world just to view them. I wish you every success in seeing this bill into action. Sharon Lowe

-----Original Message-----

From: Josh Klauder [<mailto:ravensong@mtaonline.net>]

Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2017 3:41 PM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson
<Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for HB 105

Dear Representatives Josephson and Tarr,

Because I live remote, I will be unable to attend the hearing on this bill in person, at an LIO, or by phone.

Thus I am emailing to express my very strong support of this bill.

I live near Talkeetna. Our economy here is heavily dependent on tourism, and is intertwined with visitation to Denali by road, train, and air.

There are many good reasons for the establishment of this buffer, but the economics alone would appear to make it a simple and obvious choice.

Do we allow a small handful of trappers - who have lots of other options for places to trap- to continue to undermine the wildlife viewing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of visitors to our area who support our economy? The current situation is foolish and shortsighted in the extreme.

Please continue to do everything possible to create this conservation area.

Thank you,
Josh Klauder
Talkeetna

