

From: Patricia O'Brien [<mailto:patriciaobrien@gci.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:16 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 105 (establishing a wolf protection area on the northeast boundary of Denali National Park)

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you for introducing HB 105. I sent the below information to each member of the Resources Committee.

From February *National Geographic* one year ago:

In 1999 Wallace shot a collared alpha female in the Grant Creek pack, which had been highly visible to visitors on the Park Road. In 2005 he caught the East Fork pack's alpha female in a trap set just outside the park boundary. In 2012 he dragged a horse carcass to a site where wolves were active and set traps and snares around it. When he returned a few days later, he'd trapped a pregnant female belonging to the East Fork pack. The kill, documented by a neighbor and later confirmed by Wallace, landed him in the Los Angeles Times and generated both death threats and a boost for his guiding business. That same year Wallace caught the only remaining breeding female in the Grant Creek pack, which often roamed just outside the park boundary. The pack consequently produced no pups and fell from 15 members to 3.

"That was the third time I ruined millions of people's Denali National Park viewing experience," Wallace quips.

Please take action to protect wolves near the Park Road where both Alaskan's and out of state visitors may see and photograph them.

Thank you for considering this request.

Patricia OBrien

(907) 789-9405

From: akwildlifeimages [<mailto:akwildlifeimages@gci.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:56 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HI 105

Dear Rep. Josephson

Please note my support for creating a permanent buffer zone around Denali National Park. Wolf numbers have dropped greatly since the Board Game dropped it in 2010. Less than 1 handful of trappers work that corridor yet are allowed to completely go against what 100s of thousands of tourists and residents come to see....wildlife....specifically wolves. I do not believe the Board has the where with all to do the right thing.

Thank you

Didier Lindsey
Alaskan

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: Marilyn [<mailto:lostinspace@matnet.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 40 and HB 105

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you for introducing both pieces of legislation. I know it is an uphill battle, but these changes are much needed.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Houser

From: Scott Chesney [<mailto:musher@talespinmedia.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 11:39 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>
Subject: RE: HB 105

Representative Josephson:

I am writing to voice my support for HB 105, which would establish the Gordon Haber Denali Wolf Special Management Area.

For too long, the Board of Game has decreed that arbitrary man-made boundaries are the boundaries which the wolves in the area must observe or die. The impact of this war on predators has been devastating for the packs whose territories are near the BOG's arbitrary boundary, and indeed, has affected wolf populations throughout Denali National Park. Passing HB105 would help to insure that the charismatic apex predators which tourists expect to see when they visit Alaska have a fighting chance to recover their population. I shouldn't need to point out that given Alaska's budget woes, passing this bill would boost the Denali borough and state's economies, with little impact to anyone save less than a handful of trappers.

In short, if passed, this bill would be a win for wolves, a win for tourism and the Denali borough and the State with a minimal downside. It deserves to pass.

Respectfully,

Scott Chesney

P.O. Box 84396

Fairbanks, AK, 99708

Patricia Cue
35360 Robinwood Dr.
Soldotna, AK 99669

State of Alaska House Resources Committee
RE: HB 105

February 15, 2017

I am writing to urge you to vote in support of HB 105. There are several reasons why I support this legislation. As a 28 year resident of Alaska, I value the role predators in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. As a resident who owns a tourist related business, I am impacted directly by tourists and the revenue they bring to the state.

The buffer zone is an important way to protect the Denali wolf population. Please support HB 105.

Patricia Cue

From: scherrgirl@aol.com [<mailto:scherrgirl@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:02 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 105 & HB 40

To Who It May Concern,

As an Alaskan, Education Director and Mother, I am desperately asking for two things.

Please establish the Gordon Haber Denali Wolf Special Management Area (HB 105) as it protects not just wolves, but the future of wildlife of Denali, something of true value that we owe to future generations. Please make sure to represent the majority of Alaskans (and tourists that are highly economically important in Alaska), and not just the game guides, hunters and trappers.

I am in support of HB 105, and I ask that you are too.

Please also do not allow traps near trails (HB 40) as this is simply dangerous for those that use the trails, campsites, beaches, scenic sites, etc. Public safety should be priority, not traps. This is common sense. I am in support of HB 40 and I ask that you are too.

Thank you for allowing my input and taking the time to serve Alaskans equally.

Stephanie Hartman
Anchorage, AK 99504
509-951-8123

From: Chelsea Lindquist [<mailto:chelserin@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson
<Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 105

Rep. Josephson and Rep. Geran,

I am writing 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. Alaska is known for it's natural beauty and wildlife and our wolves are an iconic symbol of our state. I urge you both to be champions of Denali's wolf population and show your support for HB 105.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
99516

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

From: Tim Lescher [<mailto:timlescher@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:23 PM

To: House Resources <lhsres@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 105 and HB 40

Dear Representative Josephson,

I waited today in the Anchorage LIO for the opportunity to give testimony in support of HB 105 for over an hour. I understand you needed to move on to HB 40, which I also support. I will instead submit via email, I hope this reaches the rest of your committee as well.

I work with gray wolves at the Alaska Zoo. I probably spend more time around wolves than 99% of the Alaskan population. This doesn't mean I think I know more about wolves, because the more you learn about these animals, the more questions you have. I also care for the caribou, and moose calves (so I like to think I am unbiased). There were several great points made during the testimonies I heard, but what I think sometimes gets lost is that wolves are very intelligent, social animals, and they are affectionate too. I have seen the effects a wolf dying has on our pack at the zoo. They mourn. This may sound anthropomorphic, but it is not. You need to see it.

I would like to invite you and the rest of your committee members to visit the Alaska Zoo and meet out gray wolves up close in person. I am happy to give you and any legislators who will be voting on HB 105 a personally guided behind the scenes tour with the wolves free of charge. I think seeing them and meeting them will give you and the committee insight into this important issue, and you will come away from the experience with additional knowledge of wolves to make a more informed decision on this important bill.

Thank you for your service, and please take me up in this offer. My contact information is below.

Sincerely,

Tim Lescher
Lead Wolf Keeper
The Alaska Zoo
907 230-3661
timlescher@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: Francis Mauer [<mailto:fmauer@mosquitonet.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:04 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 105 testimony

Dear Andy,

Thanks for the opportunity to testify as an invited participant at yesterday's hearing on HB 105. I sincerely appreciate all of your efforts and work to address several wildlife conservation issues that have been largely neglected until now. Your chairmanship of the Resources Committee represents a fresh new hope for those of us who want to see better and balanced stewardship of our wonderful wildlife.

For your reference, please see my comments below.

Fran Mauer

791 Redpoll Ln

Fairbanks, AK 99701

907-455-6829

**Testimony by Fran Mauer Before the
Alaska House Resources Committee
Regarding HB 105 February 15, 2017**

I am a 46 year resident of Alaska having worked as a wildlife biologist here for nearly 30 years.

I support HB 105 which would establish a special management area to protect wolves from hunting and trapping on State lands adjacent to the northeast corner of Denali National Park. This area is sometimes referred to as the "Wolf Townships."

Dr. Steiner and Dr. Van Ballenberghe have already explained to the Committee about how this area is important for Denali Park wildlife, especially wolves. They have also described how hunters and trappers have used extreme methods such as bait stations with animal carcasses to lure Denali wolves to their death. These actions have decimated Denali wolf families, especially those that are frequently viewed by Park visitors.

Ecologists refer to situations such as this as "population sinks," in that annual mortality of these Denali wolf families exceeds their annual reproduction. This is exactly what is occurring in the proposed Special Management Area. I can tell you with high certainty that the population sink effect will continue to decimate Denali wolves as long as these extreme killing practices are allowed. This problem will not go away unless the taking of these wolves is stopped.

I would like to respond to the testimony that you just heard from the Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Mr. Bruce Dale. What you heard was that the wolf population is not in jeopardy, that wolves quickly repopulate areas where they have been exploited and mix frequently with other packs to avoid in-breeding, suggesting that this is not a serious problem. By speaking at a broad regional population level, he avoided addressing the specific acute nature of continued exploitation of the same wolf territories year after year. The population sink concept is valid and is occurring in the case of these Denali wolves. Mr. Dale avoided the actual circumstances at work here and gave you only the "party line."

The Board of Game seems incapable of solving this problem because it only looks out for the interests of hunters and trappers. You have already been told how this situation in the Stampede area gives Alaska a "black eye" and this too will only get worse over time.

We need to foster a responsible wildlife viewing program that is a renewable economic benefit for all Alaskans. HB 105 would assure this and I urge you to pass the bill soon.

Thank You.

From: Sean Cahoon [<mailto:sean.cahoon@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:57 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 40

Hi Andy,

I'm really excited to see a legislator take action on this issue and HB 105. These are issues that get my blood pressure up, so count on my continued support! How did the hearings go on Wednesday? Was there much support? Do you give the bills much chance of getting out of committee and to the full House?

Have a good long weekend.

Sean



