

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

## **Sponsor Statement**

### *House Bill 134 – Board of Game Composition*

House Bill 134 amends the composition of the Board of Game to include at least one member whose main use of game resources is non-consumptive and one member who is actively engaged in the tourism industry.

In making board member appointments, the governor is directed to consider a diversity of interests and points of view. Unfortunately, past and present board appointments have favored consumptive interests and failed to include sufficient representation for non-consumptive interests.

Alaska's wildlife is more than a hunting opportunity for many Alaskans and visitors. Wildlife viewing, photography, and scientific research carry value such that it is worth having non-consumptive interests represented on the Board of Game.

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution to repeal a regulation that prohibited control measures such as baiting, trapping, and shooting from aircraft to hunt certain wildlife on federal wildlife refuges in Alaska. In a news story, the Board of Game chairman expressed support for the resolution. Yet, there are multiple views on such a proposal, including the impact certain controversial control measures might have on tourists' desires to visit the state. With tourism making up a larger share of Alaska's economy, it is time to include that industry's viewpoint on the board.

House Bill 134 helps ensure that a better balance of viewpoints will be represented on the Board of Game and that Alaska's wildlife continues to thrive and benefit the multiple interests of the state.