

3/23/17

Dear Representatives:

I'm a longtime Alaskan who enjoys seeing our bears and wolves in the wild. I find them magnificent. Sadly my respect for wildlife has not been represented on the Board of Game for decades. The governors are constitutionally mandated to appoint boards that represent the Alaskan diversity. This lack of diversity is unconstitutional.

We regular citizens have appealed to the last 4 governors (Murkowski, Palin, Parnell and Walker) to act responsibly and constitutionally with their board appointments. Somehow extreme anti-wildlife hunters, trappers and the powerful guided hunting industry keep making the cut, and their easy and unanimous decisions exterminate our wildlife.

We need a professional BOG where members have wildlife management knowledge and experience. Several excellent candidates have presented themselves to these governors but oddly have never been selected despite many letters of support from around Alaska by those of us who find it an honor to live among bears and wolves.

Now it is time for HR 134 to mandate that the BOG always have 2 members who represent non-consumptive wildlife interests and values. HR 134 allows a more democratic process for the BOG. A more balanced board will help Alaska return to healthy eco-systems and preserve our wildlife legacy for future generations.

I have been a Family Physician in Alaska for 24 years. Over the years when I hear about the horrible killing methods this board has approved, I think immediately of the oath I took as a doctor to first "Do No Harm." The BOG has approved of advanced torture on our beloved wolves and bears. Just the the thought of it is harmful to our hearts and spirits.

I've worked with young people who are traumatized by growing up in a world with so much violence and disrespect. They are often very connected to animals as a special resource for lowering their fear. I also understand that some of the F&G retired staff have suffered nightmares after having to snare bears as part of their work. Over the years there has been such a large outcry against the BOG decisions, but all of us feel totally ignored. In addition, attending the local BOG Advisory committee meetings has been harmful to my spirit. We listeners hear all the

killing details, and there is an atmosphere of malice when testifiers, in heartfelt and vulnerable language, urge board members to be good stewards of our beloved animals.

Thank you for voting YES on HR 134. We need balance on the BOG.

Maureen P. Longworth, MD

POBx 21084

Juneau, AK 99802

I strongly support HB 134 that has been introduced by Rep. Andy Josephson. Sharon Lowe,  
Anchorage, AK

HB134 should be made law.

With the size and impact of the tourist industry in Alaska, it is transparently unwise to have the entirety of game policy and management subject to consumptive users. Fairness dictates that ALL users who are impacted by policies and practices should have a voice, and at this time, non-consumptive users do not. This can easily be remedied by passing HB134.

Thanks you.

Respectfully,

Scott Chesney

P.O. Box 84396

Fairbanks AK 99708

I'd like to submit a comment in favor of permitting a nonconsumptive land user and a tourist onto the Board of Game.

The BoG has had a monopoly on game management for much too long. As a board with a single collective interest in harvesting wild game and killing natural predators, very little to no alternative ideas have been granted even the remotest consideration.

If BoG is allowed decide the outcome of game management for all land users then it is only fair and democratic that different ideologies are represented on the BoG.

Perhaps a third seat on the BoG can be reserved for a scientist, and then BoG's wildlife management strategies will at last have some credibility if they can cease invalidated predator control programs.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Bissinger  
Anchorage, AK

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(302) 383-5876  
[danbissinger@gmail.com](mailto:danbissinger@gmail.com)

You have been elected to represent all of Alaska's people, wildlife and natural systems.  
Unfortunately, nature does not speak English ...or any other human language.  
It speaks in diminished capacity by species extinctions, polluted water and air and earth.

Make sure you include nature by voting for AT LEAST one or two non-consumptive users and one tourism representative on the 7-member Board of Game.

Your support of managing wildlife exclusively for hunters and trappers does not represent all of the population for which you were hired to represent.

Carol Biggs  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Legislators,

I am contacting you once again in the generally fruitless efforts of attempting to slow / stop the ever increasing war against wildlife in our great state. I have been here for 17 years and have watched in disgust as the BOG and the out of state allies have pushed for more aggressive "management" of predators and wildlife on our...MY...public lands and have grown exceedingly tired of pretending that a small group of single minded hunters and trappers care at all about effective and ethical management and protection of the animals that make Alaska a special place.

The only way to reign in the fanatical agenda of the BOG is to place a few calmer minds in their midst as they have demonstrated again and again that they do not care for scientific input or the will Of the VAST majority of Alaska's residents. Now that the national ban on excessive Predator control techniques has been overturned, by politicians via lobbying from aggressive special interest groups, the state has a green light to use whatever barbaric techniques that their minds can come up with to kill as many animal as they can in the name of increasing ungulate numbers.

Your continued support of HB 105 and especially your support of Ahb 134 are more important than ever now. Please do the right thing and listen to your constituents and not just the noisy, well funded hunting and trapping groups, and allow for a change in the ill advised, aggressive control techniques pushed by recent and current BOG members.

Sincerely,

Bob Gengler  
18625 S Kanaga Loop  
Eagle River, AK 99577

Dear Resource Committee members,

I support HB 134, which would allow for representation of **non-consumptive users** on the seven-member Board of Game.

Our state must continue to find new sources of financial support and one way to do that is by ensuring non-consumptive users' views are represented on the Board of Game.

Sincerely,  
Lorraine Murray

I would like to assert that I am greatly in favour of:

**HB 134**, which would mandate two non-consumptive members on the Board of Game, one representing tourism interests. HB1 34 is critical to nearly every wildlife issue we face in Alaska today.

I believe this is only democratically fair. Even though the balance of Board members will still remain overly skewed in favour of hunting and trapping interests, two non-consumptive voices will at least give wildlife advocates a voice to be heard at official levels.

At present the BOG members vote embarrassingly as a unanimous block in favour of questionable wildlife consumptive practices which a majority of Alaskans and wildlife scientists seem to disagree with. This is not a representative body.

For example, members have turned down proposal requests for trapping set back regulations on such flimsy excuses as: "I attend the trapper's banquet and I think they are as sincere as anybody", "deep snow would be too much of a hardship for trappers to walk off trail", and "setbacks will shut down all trapping in an area" (not exact quotes - but you get the picture).

Thank you,

Ken Green - representing myself - Alaska rural resident.

Congratulations on Monday's action! Now, in order to fulfill your function to consider a diversity of interests and points of view, I urge you to pass HB 134! I heartily endorse the language, "Wildlife viewing, photography, and scientific research carry value such that it is worth having non-consumptive interests represented on the Board of Game." I enjoy hunting and its values. Non-consumptive issues such as photography, seeing animals, and science also mean very much.

Thank you,  
Nola E. Lamken  
Skagway

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

From: Carol Biggs [<mailto:aknature@alaska.net>]

Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 1:42 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr  
<[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>

Subject: Board of Game and stop wolf hunting trapping

Re HB 134,

Dedicate seats on the Board of Game for non-consumptive users, so other voices may be represented.

Otherwise, what's the point of any legislation if it's non representative?

Re HB 105

I thought this was already a law!

Please stop wolf hunting and trapping adjacent to Denali National Park!

Carol Biggs

Juneau

**From:** Jeff Fair [<mailto:fairwinds@briloon.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:07 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HBs 105 and 134

Dear Representative Josephson,

I am writing to fully support HB 105--the Denali buffer--and HB 134--Improving the Board of Game for all Alaskans. (It should be a Board of Wildlife, by the way.)

Thanks for your kind attention.

Jeff

Jeff Fair  
Author of *In Wild Trust*  
PO Box 2947  
Palmer, AK 99645

cabin 907-745-1522  
cell 585-967-4250  
[www.yukonjeff.com](http://www.yukonjeff.com)

**From:** Jos Bakker [<mailto:josb1214@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 2:11 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB134

I support HB 134

I have lived in Alaska for 36 years  
I am an avid hiker and wildlife photographer of bears, wolves and all wild animals that I find.  
It is amazing to me that only hunters and trappers have a say over what happens to our wildlife.  
I want to be heard also and so do family and friends who visit Alaska each year.  
Viewing wildlife is the highlight of their trips to Alaska.  
At least two non-consumptive seats are needed for the Board of Game to have some kind of  
balance on wildlife issues.  
I want one voice for the non-hunters and non-trappers in Alaska and one voice for all the  
tourists that visit us in Alaska and bring in two times more money than hunting and trapping does.

I support HB134

Johann Bakker  
PO Box 211403  
Auke Bay Alaska 99821

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

From: Juliette Boselli [<mailto:julietteboselli@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 9:02 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

Subject: HB 134 and HB 105

Dear Representative Josephson, I am writing today to urge you to support house bills 134 and 105. For far too long our state board of game has not represented the true will of the entire population of the state, but has catered only to a minority group of users when it comes to wildlife. Non consumptive and recreational users must be heard and represented if a board that makes decisions about wildlife that affects all Alaskans is to be just and fair. Please support bill 134. I also urge you to support bill 105 that protects Denali's wolves that wander outside the park boundaries. These wolves are an important resource for tourism in this state and necessary for the maintenance of a healthy and complete wild ecosystem that will benefit generations of future Americans and Alaskans. Please support this bill to create again the buffer zone along Denali's northeastern boundary.

Thank you for your consideration and support for these important bills.

Sincerely,

Juliette Boselli

30 year resident of Alaska and

Business owner

Denali, Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Amber Stephens [<mailto:oceanamber24@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 10:13 AM

**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr  
<[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** HB 134 and 105

Hello Representatives,

My name is Amber Stephens and I am writing you and urging you to support HB 134 and HB 105.

HB 134-We need non-consumptive representation on our Game board. Alaska's wildlife is more than a hunting opportunity for many Alaskans (such as myself) and visitors. Wildlife viewing, photography, and scientific research carry value such that it is worth having non-consumptive interest representation on the Board of Game.

HB 105- I strongly support this and I urge you too as well. This buffer is needed to help preserves these wolves and their environment.

Thank you for considering this position.

Cheers,  
Amber Stephens

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

From: Jeff [<mailto:jeffsloss11@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 1:29 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

Subject: We strongly support HB 134

Thank you,

Susan and Jeff Sloss  
Juneau, Alaska. 99801

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Lin Davis [<mailto:molin@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank you for HB 134

Dear Representatives Josephson and Tarr:

Thank you so much for giving this a public hearing and allowing all of us to speak out about having a more diverse Alaska Board of Game. Every winter I send in my comments about BOG killing practices, and my point of view is never represented. Over the years it has been heart-wrenching to see the egregious decisions coming out of the exclusive hunter-trapper board. We've petitioned Gov. Walker with excellent reasons and heart felt concerns. All to no avail. Nothing democratic about the BOG selection process.

Thank you for your hard work on an issue that means so much to a majority of Alaskans.

#### Alaska HB 134

Up till now the Alaska Board of Game, which should democratically represent all Alaskans and their diversity of wildlife interests, has consisted only of hunters, trappers and hunting guides. For over a decade, many of us Alaskans have tried every avenue to urge that the BOG contain non-consumptive wildlife users. Meanwhile the governors appoint only hunters and trappers.

To paraphrase HB 134, Alaska's wildlife is more than just killing or trapping opportunities. Wildlife viewing and making a beauty pilgrimage into remote areas brings immeasurable value to many people. And it brings revenue to our state. Many tourists remark that it is a lifetime personal best to see a wolf or bear in the wild. As I talk with tourists in Juneau who come from all over the world, they will travel far to see these magnificent beings. Our Alaskan economy benefits greatly from those who are non-consumptive users of wildlife. Scientific research and wildlife photography carry huge value as well.

For way too long the BOG has only focused on their own special interests of hunting and trapping and its financial gain. This is not democracy in action. This is very wrong. Our governors have not stood up to this small but powerful group, and average Alaskans need HB 134 to voice their democratic outrage: the BOG needs the balance of two non-consumptive members on the Board of Game, and HB 134 mandates this democratic change.

Lin Davis

3099 Nowell Ave  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-586-4111

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

From: Nina Faust [<mailto:fausbail@horizonsatellite.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:23 PM

To: House Resources <[hsres@akleg.gov](mailto:hsres@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>;

Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>

Subject: RE: HB 134--"An Act relating to the composition of the Board of Game."

P.O. Box 2994

Homer AK 99603

March 21, 2017

House Resources Committee

Juneau AK

RE: HB 134--"An Act relating to the composition of the Board of Game."

I urge you to pass HB 134. I have followed Board of Game issues for years, commented on many Proposals, but I always feel like my letters fall on deaf ears. I came to Alaska in 1969, and over the years, there has rarely been true representation of other user groups on the Board of Game. Yes, there have been a few, but one vote is a voice in the wilderness on a Board overwhelmingly representative of the hunting and trapping community and its associated commercial.

Now we have a total domination of users who see only predator control as a best management tool, despite increasing science to the contrary. Areas like GMU 15C have aerial wolf hunting and predator control forced on it despite a unanimous voice against it within our local ADF&G Advisory Board and local data indicating the moose numbers do not warrant predator control.

It is time to legislate a change to provide more fair and balanced representation on the Board of Game. Tourism, photography, wildlife viewing, birding, are increasingly popular and bring millions into the state. I fully support this legislation to make the Board of Game more balanced and fairer to all user groups. Please pass HB 134 this session.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

**From:** Susan and Pete Vogt [<mailto:bias@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr  
<[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please support pending legislation House Bill 134 and 105

For the over 20 years of living in Alaska my voice has consistently been ignored and derided from the BOG and State of Alaska about wanting non consumptive use of wildlife and I support these two bills! I have never seen a wolf in all this time of living here and only one or two bears from a distance but have seen plenty of dead stuffed animals which disgusts me. My friends are coming up to visit and see wildlife and I told them – good luck with that. The only voices heard in this state are the minority hunters and trappers – screw the rest of the residents and visitors. That is what the board of game does. Please support my family and friends – none of whom hunt or trap - for a change.

Thank you,

Sincerely

Susan and Pete Vogt

269 Bias Drive

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

**From:** Molly D [<mailto:baileycreeksc@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Support of HB 134 and HB 105

Representative Josephson,

I am writing in support of HB 105 and HB 134

As an Alaskan and a member of the Denali Park community, I wholeheartedly support HB 105, to create a Denali wolf buffer in state lands along the Stampede corridor. As an member of the tourism industry, I personally witness the positive economical impact that the *living* wolves have in our state. The recent slaughter of the Toklat Pack is unacceptable and the wolves in Denali National Park remain an integral part of a healthy ecosystem, as the longest wolf study in North America (Denali Park wolves) has shown. They deserve the highest protection.

I also support having a diversified Board of Game, with non consumptive members like myself being represented. The govenor has a responsibilty to represent *all* Alaskans on a diversified Board of Game.

The legislature and the Board of Game need to understand that more vehicles along the state's road system kill more moose than the wolves do. There is never a lack of road kill game meat in my neighborhood in Cantwell! Let the wolves live. They don't really compete with prey populations. Many Alaskans and hundreds more visitors to the state, spending millions of dollars annually, experience the wonder of a wolf in the wild than to allow them to be baited out of the park to be legally hunted.

Thank you for your support of HB 134 and HB 105.

Molly Gillespie  
PO Box 176  
Cantwell, AK 99729

**From:** Didier Lindsey [<mailto:akwildlifeimages@gci.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB 105 and HB134

Dear Rep. Josephson

I want to let you know of my support for HB 105 and HB 134. As a professional wildlife photographer I have a special interest in the affairs of the Board of Game. I grew up hunting and have never been anti hunting but when you see some of the actions of the Board, its easy to be anti BOG. It is completely controlled by guides and trappers. And its not like just because there would be non hunting and trapping members that they would be against those activities in the least. Its simply to give non consumers a seat at the table. Also, Denali wolves need a buffer area, the old one was working exactly as intended before the BOG stepped in and pulled it. Now , no matter the public pressure to reinstate it, the BOG refuses to make it happen. Thank you for fighting the good fight.

respectfully

Didier Lindsey

**From:** Bill Sherwonit [<mailto:akgriz@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:55 PM

**To:** House Resources <[lhsres@akleg.gov](mailto:lhsres@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Comment in support of HB 134

To Members of the House Resources Committee:

I wish to express my strong support for House Bill 134, which as I understand it would require that two of the seven seats on Alaska's Board of Game (BOG) be designated as "non-consumptive" positions (one of them dedicated to a tourism representative). The BOG has been way out of balance for far too long, with its members under the past four administrations (including the current one) truly representing only hunting, trapping, and big-game guiding interests. It's reached a point where the board is routinely dismissive of perspectives different than the narrow one that it has come to represent and largely ignores the larger public interest. I say this as one who has closely followed—and frequently reported on and written about—the BOG since the late 1980s.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the BOG has become increasingly unbalanced, even extreme, in its perspectives and policies, especially when it comes to the management of wolves and bears. The board's extreme bias was demonstrated by its recent 7-0 vote to reject the reinstatement of a no-kill wolf buffer on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park. It's almost inconceivable that every member of the board would oppose such a common-sense buffer, but "group think" has taken over the board largely because there are no voices on it that present an alternative point of view. Similarly the BOG has dismissed or ignored citizen efforts to modify trapping regulations in some areas because of conflicts between trappers—often in the small minority where such conflicts occur—and the larger non-trapping population of such communities (the Mat-Su Valleys and Cooper Landing area on the Kenai Peninsula being prime examples). And the predator control (i.e. predator kill) programs it has approved over the past decade are more extreme—and in many instances, cruel—than at any time since statehood. And despite the arguments that the BOG relies on "sound science," the reality is that its "science" is often suspect.

The BOG's current (and recent) makeup works fine for most of the regulations and issues that it addresses, but works exceedingly poorly for the less common, but more complex issues and circumstances in which so-called non-consumptive interests—from wildlife watchers to photographers, naturalists, independent wildlife researchers, and others of us who simply want to share the landscape with wildlife, rather than kill it—have a large stake in how wildlife are managed. The Denali wolf buffer is a great example of that; despite widespread support for the

buffer—yes, even among Alaskans—the BOG in its current configuration chose to unanimously ignore a reasonable and popular solution to a growing concern in that part of the state.

It's almost impossible, nowadays, to place anyone on the board who is not an avid hunter or trapper or big-game guide, given the system that's in place. That system—and the politics that governs it—has to change and HB 134 is a move in the right direction. Even with two non-consumptive seats, the BOG will remain unbalanced. But at least there will be minority voices that present different perspectives and, I suspect, lead to conversations and solutions that the BOG won't even consider now. I need to emphasize that the designation of two non-consumptive will make little, if any, difference on most of the regulations and policies that the board enacts. But it's critical to have such voices when the issues involve larger conservation issues and cultural values.

If a choice must be made, I would support a general “non-consumptive” seat rather than one designated as representing tourism. But I hope the committee will choose to be forward-looking and approve the two-seat proposal

Thanks once more for considering my comments and perspectives.

Bill Sherwonit

2441 Tulik Drive

Anchorage, AK 99517

[akgriz@hotmail.com](mailto:akgriz@hotmail.com)

907-245-0283

**From:** Ken and Kate Green [<mailto:kennkay@arctic.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 9:58 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** In favour of HB134

Rep. Andy Josephson.

I would like to assert that I am greatly in favour of:

**HB 134**, which would mandate two non-consumptive members on the Board of Game, is critical to nearly every wildlife issue we face in Alaska.

I believe this is only democratically fair. Even though the balance of Board members will still remain overly skewed in favour of hunting and trapping interests, two non-consumptive voices will at least give wildlife advocates a voice to be heard at official levels.

At present the BOG members vote embarrassingly as a unanimous block in favour of questionable wildlife consumptive practices which a majority of Alaskans and wildlife scientists seem to disagree with. This is not a representative body.

For example, members have turned down proposal requests for trapping set back regulations on such flimsy excuses as: "I attend the trapper's banquet and I think they are as sincere as anybody", "deep snow would be too much of a hardship for trappers to walk off trail", and "setbacks will shut down all trapping in an area" (not exact quotes - but you get the picture).

Thank you,

Ken Green - representing myself - Alaska rural resident.

POBox 776 Cooper Landing AK 99572 (907) 595-1643.

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

From: Bernhard Richert [<mailto:berney@alaska.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 1:25 AM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr  
<[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>

Subject: HB 134 and HB 105

Dear Resource Committee Co-Chairs:

First, I want to thank you both for submitting these pieces of legislation in Juneau. I most strongly support both the meaningful inclusion of non-consumptive representatives on the Board of Game and the critical need for the buffer zone to assure wolves from the National Park are not eliminated - as has happened in the past.

Many of us who came to Alaska, came because we loved the wild and alive nature of our beautiful state. We should have the same right to be able to see and enjoy live animals in the same manner which others have the right to harvest them. The economic value of tourism and nature photography, as well as our individual personal rights to enjoy Alaska's nature in non-consumptive ways, are both significant and important. These rights are not balanced in Alaska at this time.

You have my family's strong support in behalf of both Bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bernhard Richert

Anchorage, Alaska  
(907)727-8813

Greetings

I would like to encourage some diversity and other viewpoints other than maximum consumption use that prevails in the current Board of Game.

I have been here since 1980 and know how the politics and board of game has operated. I hunt, put in for permits, and try to put moose and caribou in the freezer every year. However, I am a strong believer in fair chase and absolutely value apex predators like Brown Bears and wolves. Management should include not trying to decimate apex predators. The board in its current existence is nothing more than a lobbying branch of the Boone and Crockett club and trappers association.

A fine biologist like Vic Van Ballenberge would be major improvement to the board. Hell, anybody with a forward viewpoint would be appreciated by this Alaskan. Perhaps Rick Sinnott?

In any event the Board of Game in its present configuration is horrible. I say this as a retired military member, lifelong hunter, and a Alaskan who truly values wildlife.

Please bring some fresh perspective and rationale to the Board of Game.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Larry Casey and family  
12428 Winter Park Circle  
Eagle River, AK 99577

To Members of the House Resources Committee:

I wish to express my strong support for House Bill 134, which as I understand it would require that two of the seven seats on Alaska's Board of Game (BOG) be designated as "non-consumptive" positions (one of them dedicated to a tourism representative). The BOG has been way out of balance for far too long, with its members under the past four administrations (including the current one) truly representing only hunting, trapping, and big-game guiding interests. It's reached a point where the board is routinely dismissive of perspectives different than the narrow one that it has come to represent and largely ignores the larger public interest. I say this as one who has closely followed—and frequently reported on and written about—the BOG since the late 1980s.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the BOG has become increasingly unbalanced, even extreme, in its perspectives and policies, especially when it comes to the management of wolves and bears. The board's extreme bias was demonstrated by its recent 7-0 vote to reject the reinstatement of a no-kill wolf buffer on state lands adjacent to Denali National Park. It's almost inconceivable that every member of the board would oppose such a common-sense buffer, but "group think" has taken over the board largely because there are no voices on it that present an alternative point of view. Similarly the BOG has dismissed or ignored citizen efforts to modify trapping regulations in some areas because of conflicts between trappers—often in the small minority where such conflicts occur—and the larger non-trapping population of such communities (the Mat-Su Valleys and Cooper Landing area on the Kenai Peninsula being prime examples). And the predator control (i.e. predator kill) programs it has approved over the past decade are more extreme—and in many instances, cruel—than at any time since statehood. And despite the arguments that the BOG relies on "sound science," the reality is that its "science" is often suspect.

The BOG's current (and recent) makeup works fine for most of the regulations and issues that it addresses, but works exceedingly poorly for the less common, but more complex issues and circumstances in which so-called non-consumptive interests—from wildlife watchers to photographers, naturalists, independent wildlife researchers, and others of us who simply want to share the landscape with wildlife, rather than kill it—have a large stake in how wildlife are managed. The Denali wolf buffer is a great example of that; despite widespread support for the buffer—yes, even among Alaskans—the BOG in its current configuration chose to unanimously ignore a reasonable and popular solution to a growing concern in that part of the state.

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governs it—has to change and HB 134 is a move in the right direction. Even with two non-consumptive seats, the BOG will remain unbalanced. But at least there will be minority voices that present different perspectives and, I suspect, lead to conversations and solutions that the BOG won't even consider now. I need to emphasize that the designation of two non-consumptive will make little, if any, difference on most of the regulations and policies that the board enacts. But it's critical to have such voices when the issues involve larger conservation issues and cultural values.

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Thanks once more for considering my comments and perspectives.

Bill Sherwonit

2441 Tulik Drive

Anchorage, AK 99517

[akgriz@hotmail.com](mailto:akgriz@hotmail.com)

907-245-0283

I am writing to let you know that I support the idea of having non-consumptive user represented on the Board of Game. Our family does hunt but we still feel that this would be a good idea and will add balance to the Board of Game.

Thank you,  
Leslie Morton  
Soldotna

Sent from my iPhone

To Whom This May Concern:

I am a 28 year resident of Alaska, a small business owner, and a member of the armed forces. I urge you to support HB 134 adding two non-consumptive seats to the Board of Game. My small business offers lodging to wildlife viewers and photographers. The Alaska economy is a balance between those you hunt and trap the wildlife and those who appreciate the value of observing wildlife without harm.

Non-consumptive users are currently not represented on the BOG yet we bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy. I urge you to support HB 134.

Patricia Cue  
35360 Robinwood Dr.  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
907-299-3610