

Representative Dean Westlake

Alaska State Legislature | District 40

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· Special Committee on Arctic, Economic Development,
and Tourism, Chair
· Resources Committee, Vice Chair
· Community and Regional Affairs Committee
· Special Committee on Energy

Kotzebue · Kiana · Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kivalina · Kobuk · Noorvik · Noatak · Selawik · Shungnak · Red Dog
Barrow · Nuiqsut · Kaktovik · Wainwright · Point Hope · Point Lay · Anaktuvuk Pass · Atkasuk · Prudhoe Bay
Alakaket · Alatna · Bettles · Deering · Evansville · Coldfoot · Hughes · Wiseman

Sponsor Statement

HB 211 Nonresident Hunting Requirements: Caribou

House Bill 211 affords Alaskans an opportunity to harvest vital subsistence resources while allowing nonresident hunters, without a second degree of kin, to hunt through requiring a licensed professional guide in order to take a caribou any of these four arctic herds: Western Arctic, Central Arctic, Porcupine, and Teshekpuk.

The Central Arctic Herd population has fallen by 69% since 2010 while the Western Arctic Herd has decreased by 41% since 2003. With no definitive cause yet determined for the population decline, now more than ever is the time to take extra precaution when managing these herds, which are a vital resource that many rural communities depend on for subsistence.

Recently, game management unit 23 has experienced over-harvesting issues and hunting has been federally closed to anyone that does not reside in the area. It is my hope that by requiring nonresident hunters to be accompanied by a licensed guide who is familiar with the areas and migration patterns of these magnificent herds, the need for game unit closures similar to the one in 23 will be prevented.

I ask that you please join me in supporting the preservation of one of Alaska's most critical resources, and allowing responsible harvest for all Alaskans and nonresidents alike.

For any questions on HB 211, please contact my staff Forrest Wolfe at 465.6835 or forrest.wolfe@akleg.gov