



unapologetically **FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS**

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January 27, 2021

To: Senator Josh Revak & Senate Resources Committee

Re: SB 22 – Repealing the termination date for the Intensive Management hunting license surcharge

Dear Senator Revak and members of the Resources Committee,

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) **supports** SB 22, to repeal the termination date of the Intensive Management hunting license surcharge.

We strongly supported former Representative Talerico's bill (HB 137) that raised hunting license and tag fees and instituted an Intensive Management (IM) surcharge to help better fund the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation.

The additional \$15 hunting license IM surcharge fee for both resident and nonresident hunters has been important in funding the necessary biological research and monitoring to determine predator and prey densities, the health of our moose and caribou populations, and what the prevailing habitat conditions are.

All hunters benefit from this research and programs, and we hope you will support the continuation the IM surcharge fee.

Sincerely,

Mark Richards
Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska

ALASKA

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619 ~ (907)-868-1562

Email: office@alaskaprohunter.org ~ www.alaskaprohunter.org

February 4, 2021

Senator Revak
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 22

Dear Senator Revak,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) to thank you for sponsoring SB 22 and to express our support for the bill.

APHA is a statewide professional association representing Alaska's hunting guides. Our industry generates close to 92 million in annual economic activity while bringing more than 57 million in new dollars to Alaska's economy. Alaska's hunting guide businesses are 85% Alaskan owned with over half the active business owners living outside of major urban areas. Hunting guides rely on fair and predictable non-resident hunting opportunities allocated by the Board of Game. Non-resident hunting licenses and tag fees generate 76% of the revenue needed to fund the Division of Wildlife. APHA is a voice advocating for small Alaskan businesses that rely on sustainably managed hunting. I am proud of APHA's role in supporting necessary funding of wildlife conservation for the benefit of all users.

Intensive Management (IM) is a critical management tool for putting food on the table of Alaskans. IM is designed to prevent ungulate populations from declining to a level where they exist at low equilibrium with predator populations and cannot provide a harvestable surplus. While IM programs can include targeted predator removal, this is only one factor that can cause ungulate populations to crash. Other factors are extreme weather, habitat loss and degradation, and disease. Because Alaska has predator populations statewide it is critical that wildlife managers have the tools to adjust the ratios of predator to prey. Without these tools, human needs, most critically subsistence, will not be met. IM programs require extensive and exhaustive population assessments as well as analysis of the factors leading up to severe ungulate decline. If predation is determined to be either the cause of decline or projected to repress the ungulate population below habitat carrying capacity, then and only then will target removal of predators be incorporated into the final IM program.

Dedicated to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

ALASKA

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APHA supports the current IM surcharge of \$10 for residents and \$30 for non-residents because Pittman/Robertson (PR) funds cannot be used to fund IM. As recently as 2015, the legislature funded IM using UGF as CIPs. As part of a coalition, APHA worked with other Alaskan sporting groups in anticipation of the decline in UGF. The coalition rallied around Rep. Talerico's legislation (HB 137, 29th Legislature) to raise hunting license and tag fees. As part of that revenue package, that included doubling non-resident fees, the IM surcharge was created as a way of accounting for revenue used for IM. The IM surcharge provides "bright line" accounting for a minimum amount of revenue that "may" be used to fund IM in Alaska. Alaska's IM surcharge started out as an experiment, now it has become a critical revenue stream to support healthy and productive ungulate populations statewide.

APHA members are proud of their role day in and day out, season after season sustainably harvesting bears and wolves as part of their businesses. Guided hunters, especially in remote parts of our vast state, are often the only consistent harvesters of bears and wolves. These small guide businesses (50% of guide businesses take less than 10 hunters annually) are generally a net gain to the predator prey balance in favor of ungulates. This is to the benefit of resident hunters who overwhelmingly target ungulates for food. Hunting guides are a critical component to wildlife management in Alaska both leading up to and after IM plans have been adopted. APHA supports continued funding of IM and the removal of the sunset offered in SB 22.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sam Rohrer
President, APHA



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Headquarters Office

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.6136
Fax: 907.465.2332

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Josh Revak
Chair Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB22 Letter of Support

Dear Senator Revak:

This letter is submitted to express the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's support of your Senate Bill 22 which repeals the sunset of the intensive management surcharge.

The Alaska Legislature recognized the importance of wild game meat to Alaskans as a food source and passed the Intensive Management Law. This requires the Board of Game to identify moose, caribou, and deer populations that are especially important food sources and to ensure that the populations remain large enough to provide food security for Alaskans through an adequate, sustained harvest.

An intensive management surcharge was added to hunting licenses in 2016 and has been collected since January 1, 2017. Because these programs have proven successful in increasing ungulate (principally caribou and moose) populations, hunters requested the surcharge to ensure that funds were dedicated and available to assess and conduct intensive management activities.

Intensive management programs that enhance habitat or manage predators are a core element of game management and are essential to meeting subsistence needs, the department's first priority. Before the surcharge was implemented, funding for intensive management programs had consisted of capital appropriations. With declining general funds, these capital appropriations may be more difficult to obtain, and funding would be uncertain. Careful planning and reliable funding are essential to ensuring these programs are effective and defensible. With that, I urge your support for this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug".

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Fairbanks
Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region
Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Kirk Schwalm
Chairman
PO Box 83825
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta Junction	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

To: Senator Revak &
Senate Resources Committee

February 12, 2021

Re: SB22

The Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on February 10, 2021 via videoconference. The FAC moved to support SB22, repealing the sunset of the Intensive Management hunting license surcharge. Fifteen of fifteen members were present and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

Sincerely,



Kirk Schwalm
Chair, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

February 14th, 2021

Senator Josh Revak,
Chair Senate Resources Committee
Sen.Josh.Revak@akleg.gov

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Eagle River, AK 99577
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Fax: (907) 745-6175
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"http://www.aksafariclub.org"
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Senator Revak:

The Alaska Safari Club International supports SB-22. We believe the Intensive Management Surcharge (SB-22) should not be allowed to sunset. Our members believe it has been huge contributor in assisting the ADF&G to properly manage Alaska's wildlife resources.

Harvesting wild game is a practice steeped in tradition and is extremely important to many Alaskan families. In fact, in some places, it is a necessity. By the Department of Fish and Game's best estimate, 39.1% of rural Alaska's wild food harvest is composed of land mammals, marine mammals, and birds/eggs. It is estimated that about 34.0 million pounds (usable weight) of wild foods are harvested annually by rural residents and 11.4 million pounds by urban residents (this includes all wild foods). On a per person basis, the harvest is roughly 276 pounds per person per year for residents in rural areas and 19 pounds per person for residents in urban areas (Subsistence in Alaska, 2018). In addition to providing healthy and wholesome food, it also helps bond families, friends, and communities. The older generations teaching the younger, the shared activities of butchering and processing, the sharing of the bounty with friends, relatives, and neighbors.

The Alaska Legislature recognized this importance and in 1994 passed the Intensive Management (IM) Law consistent with Article 8, section 4 of the Alaska Constitution. This law requires the Alaska Board of Game to identify moose, caribou, and deer populations that are important food sources for Alaskans and ensures that these populations remain large enough to allow for adequate and sustained yield.

An intensive management surcharge was added to hunting licenses in 2016 and has been collected since January 1, 2017. Because these programs have proven successful in increasing some ungulate (principally caribou and moose) populations, hunters requested the surcharge to ensure that funds were dedicated and available to assess and conduct intensive management activities. The license revenue allows the department to carry out the projects free of interference or

***Safari Club Alaska Chapter
First For Hunters, First For Education, First For Conservation!***

hinderance from the federal government. This also frees up other funds that can be used to leverage federal Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds (3:1 match) for research and other critical activities, thereby helping to mitigate reversion of federal dollars and fills the gaps where PR funds cannot be used.

The hunters that pay this surcharge do so without hesitation or regret. Hunters realize the value of proper management of our fish and game resources. With the huge budget crisis facing the State of Alaska we must find new and innovative ways to fund our essential programs. The Alaskan hunters are willing to do our share and step up and help with that funding. So once again we want to express our strong and unequivocal support for the continuation of the Intensive Management program and its funding by a surcharge of hunting licenses.

Best regards

Jeff Garness

SCI Alaska Chapter President

E-mail: president@aksafariclub.org

Cell: (907) 244-9612

Website: www.aksafariclub.org

***Safari Club Alaska Chapter
First For Hunters, First For Education, First For Conservation!***



Dear Senator Revak:

As President of the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AK WSF) I would like to thank you for your efforts and express our equivocal support for Senate Bill 22. The AK WSF Mission: ***Enhance wild sheep populations, promote scientific wildlife management, educate the public on wild sheep, and protect and increase sheep hunting and viewing opportunities in Alaska.***

AK WSF is proud of our fundraising efforts in Alaska but we caution that NGO support such as ours is not a replacement or a viable alternative to a direct, continuous, user based revenue source such as the IM surcharge. AK WSF dedicates significant energy to various fundraising events to fulfill our mission by providing additional funding to the division of wildlife conservation. In the past year AK WSF fundraising efforts resulted in a direct award of \$120K and historically WSF has contributed over \$2M in funding to ADF&G for wildlife conservation in Alaska. All of this money is available for federal match at a three to one ratio resulting in \$8M of conservation on the ground in Alaska. These funds are meant to enhance the mission of ADF&G and not pay for basic mission fulfillment. Other sources such as the IM Surcharge are meant to prevent ADF&G mission degradation.

Alaska, as you know is one of the few states that receive the maximum Pitman- Robinson Funding allowable by law. To take advantage of these funds the State must generate sufficient matching dollars to ensure a full utilization. That has not always been the case in Alaska. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure that we do not waste this valuable resource by ensuring that sufficient matching dollars are always available at State level. The IM Surcharge is one source of that funding.

Wild sheep in Alaska and wildlife management as a whole is facing unprecedented challenges in the coming four years. Three years ago Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae was confirmed in our populations of wild sheep. ADFG responded appropriately and allocated significant resources to testing live wild animals and partnering with hunters to get a handle on the extent of the outbreak. Absent a well funded division of wildlife this critical work to understand and hopefully prevent additional transmission may not continue.

At a time when State management of wildlife is under constant attack from Federal management encroachment like recent efforts to reduce hunting opportunity, it is imperative that we take advantage of every funding source to ensure that ADF&G remains fully funded and viable to fulfill its primary mission to help avoid Federal overreach.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB22 and for your strong leadership efforts to keep important funding to support sound wildlife management.

Kevin J. Kehoe
President, Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation

www.AKWildSheep.org

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Josh Revak
Chair Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB22 Letter of Support

Dear Senator Revak:

The Alaska Kenai SCI chapter is in full and strong support of passage of SB-22 to eliminate the sunset date on the surcharge on hunting licenses. The few dollars paid by hunters have provided necessary funds to conduct needed survey work to better manage our wildlife resources. There are several clear examples of how these monies have increased the department's ability to manage as well as hunter opportunity to increase harvest. The most obvious examples are the predator management programs conducted in Game Management Units 13, 16 and 20. However, not all these funds have been used for predator management. Funds collected under this program have created more opportunities for ADF&G to conduct survey and inventory work of other species, including non-game species.

Alaskans have a stanch dependence in their relationship with harvesting wild resources for food security, greater than any other place in our nation. As an example of this reliance, State Subsistence Division reported on a per person basis, rural residents harvest an average of 276 pounds of wildlife resources annually.

Our organization is dedicated to conserving Alaska's wildlife resources so they can be utilized by all Alaskans, we believe these few extra dollars added to the price of a license is necessary to carry out the mission of the state's wildlife management programs. Additionally, Alaska is by far the least expensive state to hunt in when comparing the cost of our license fees to other states and the amount of meat one can put in a families' freezer. In some areas, the bag limit for caribou is five per day, there are multiple bag limits for deer and a few areas allow two moose per person per year, furthermore, seasons are longer over most of the state as a result from well-funded survey efforts. The surcharge from for the Intensive Management Program eliminates any cost to Alaskan hunters for moose, deer or caribou tags.

In closing, the repeal of SB22 is a crucial to Alaskans who harvest wild game resources.

Sincerely,

The Alaska Kenai Chapter of Safari Club International



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Telephone: (907) 789-2399 • Fax: (907) 586-6020

Senator Joshua Revak
Senator Peter Micchiche
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Jesse Kiehl

March 6, 2021

RE: SB 22, A n Act repealing the termination date for the intensive management hunting license surcharge.

Dear Senators Revak, Micciche, Bishop, Stedman and Kiehl:

I am writing on behalf of the Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. (TSI) regarding SB 22, a bill repealing the termination date for the intensive management hunting license surcharge. TSI is a sportsman/conservation organization based in Juneau and has approximately 1,500 members. TSI strongly supports SB 22. We request that this letter be entered into the official record for SB 22.

TSI is aware of the rationale for creating the 1994 Intensive Management (IM) law and the subsequent IM hunting license surcharge. Prior to the creation of the IM hunting license surcharge, funding to support the IM law and its required activities was provided by legislative CIPs. However, as the State's budget coffers lessened, the IM surcharge was implemented as a way to make up for the lost CIP funding.

We wish to stress that surcharge funds are used not only for justified predator management programs but for predator and prey population assessments and habitat evaluation and improvement projects as well. TSI's support for the IM hunting surcharge is directly linked to the knowledge that these funds provide the department with the necessary ability to implement the IM law, which includes assessing, evaluating, and possibly enhancing habitat in lieu of having to reduce predator numbers, as well as removing predators when data warrants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Ron".

Ron Somerville
TSI Board of Directors

Sportsmen Promoting Conservation of Alaska's Fish and Wildlife Since 1945

Emma Torkelson

From: Sondra Hugg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Sen. Joshua Revak
Subject: Support of SB22

Dear Senator Revak:

This letter is submitted to express our support for Senate Bill 22. It is obvious that the surcharge, paid by hunters on behalf of Alaskan users, was a wise decision initially and should continue to pay for intensive management. One example of proof is in the increase in numbers of the Forty-mile herd.

It is nice to know that the intensive management program would be funded without draining the general fund and particularly without interference from the federal government.

Respectfully,

Clifford Hugg
Soldotna

Honorable Senator Revak,

We are supporting your bill SB22. "An Act repealing the termination date for the intensive management hunting license surcharge."

This surcharge is an effective way to fund ADF&G management strategies, helping to insure healthy populations of animals for sport and subsistence hunters at a minimal cost to each hunter and fisher.

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We have read pros and cons about this funding, some saying it is only being used to target wolves and bears and some saying it isn't being used in the way it was supposed to be, and all kinds of variations and ideas about it. We choose to accept the expertise of wildlife biologists and any funding we can send their way is needed and used well as far as we can tell. We have had a hunting guide operation in the Wrangell mountains since the early 1960's and do want to have healthy populations of animals.

We are convinced that those using state resources should have some "skin in the game".

We support our ADF&G people and for the most part think they really do care and try to do a good job.

Please repeal the termination of the surcharge. A sunset would be horrible especially at this time of year when the sunsets are getting later every day.

Personally:

Sure was good meeting you last year. We would have enjoyed coming down to Juneau once again to sit in on meetings and learn more this spring but alas, we are stuck in the Wrangell's with a bumper crop of light powder and our skis by the door since things are shut down.

Thanks for sponsoring this bill and thank the committee for the repeal if they vote that way. If they don't I guess we will be perplexed at their thinking and we probably won't want to thank them too much....

We spoke with you about getting kids out here hunting from the military world. We need to do that. This year we have a young man from Alaska coming after winning an essay competition sponsored by Alaska Professional Hunters Assoc. but, would be interested if you have some ideas WHEN you have time. We are not on a deadline.

Thanks for all your hard work and hair pulling.... Can't imagine how hard your job is especially now in the present world. Yikes.

Sincerely,

Paul and Donna Claus

www.ultimathulelodge.com