



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

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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 "D. Lang".

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner