

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/23/96

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Taylor, Green, Miller, Halford, Frank

REPRESENTATIVES Ogan, James

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
2 to management of game.

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS**, under Governor Steve Cowper, the name of the Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game, division of game, was changed to the division of wildlife conservation on
6 January 1, 1989; and

7 **WHEREAS**, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the
8 division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been significantly redirected
9 toward nongame, nonconsumptive uses and users; and

10 **WHEREAS** the change of the name of the division appears to also have changed the
11 focus of the division from management goals reflective of the taxes, license fees, and
12 matching federal dollars provided by consumptive users of game resources to management
13 goals based on public opinion and unscientific data; and

14 **WHEREAS** significant amounts of federal and state fish and game funds have been
15 used for purposes other than those purposes statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and
16 sportsmen whose license fees and equipment taxes provide funding for the division;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions
2 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing
3 harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to
4 game, should be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game
6 resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of
7 providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that if the Department
9 of Fish and Game desires to provide viewing opportunities and other nonconsumptive uses of
10 resources, that those uses compete with other department programs for general fund money
11 and not siphon federal and state fish and game funds provided by hunters and sportsmen; and
12 be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urgently requests Governor
14 Knowles to reestablish the division of game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
15 and to reaffirm the division's primary mission to manage the game resources of the state to
16 achieve and maintain high sustainable levels of game for all Alaskans.