



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
ALASKA

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

House Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Representative Dilbert, Co-chair  
Representative Frier, Co-chair  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: HB276**

The Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 276, companion bill to SB 224, *“An Act relating to state land; relating to contracts for the sale and lease of state land; relating to commercial development parks; and providing for an effective date.”*

**Alaska BHA opposes HB 276.**

While the bill is presented as an economic development opportunity for Alaskans—citing, for example, Section 3’s residency requirement for bidding—it ultimately opens the door for development within state parks and accelerates the process for leasing and selling state lands. These provisions raise serious concerns about the long-term impacts to public access, wildlife habitat, and the outdoor traditions that many Alaskans depend on.

For hunters, anglers, trappers, and foragers across the state, access to public lands is fundamental. Legislation that facilitates the transfer or privatization of public lands risks reducing those opportunities and limiting the ability of Alaskans to participate in the outdoor pursuits that are central to our culture, economy, and way of life.

Divesting public lands into private ownership may generate short-term revenue, but it often results in long-term loss of public access, habitat fragmentation, and diminished opportunities for fish and wildlife. Alaska remains one of the few places where residents can still fully participate in a year-round outdoor lifestyle supported by healthy wildlife populations and expansive public lands. That opportunity is part of what makes Alaska unique.

Public lands are a shared legacy that provide enduring benefits to all Alaskans. Policies that remove these lands from public ownership should be approached with caution and broad public consideration. For these reasons, the Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers urges the House Resources Committee to reject HB 276 and to carefully consider the precedent that legislation like this may set for the future of Alaska’s wild public lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter of BHA,

Mary Graves  
Alaska Chapter Coordinator

