



March 13, 2026

The Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Chair, Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 121  
Juneau, AK 99801

Chair Giessel:

Thank you for inviting the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to present Senate Bill (SB) 224 on March 9, 2026. This letter provides the responses to questions and requests for follow-up information from this hearing.

1. **Sen. Wielechowski asked for the following documents, which are included with this letter:**
  - a. Maps depicting Settlement Lands
    - i. Northern Region Current Settlement Land
    - ii. Southcentral Region Current Settlement Land
    - iii. Southeast Regional Current Settlement Land
    - iv. Statewide Current Settlement Land
  - b. Chapter 132, SLA 1992-Business Park Wetlands original legislation
  - c. Two articles referenced during DNR's presentation
  
2. **Sen. Kawasaki asked if certain rules or protections for animals in the Kenai Moose Range and Kodiak State Game Refuge would be gone if the repealer in section 16 of SB 224 was enacted.**

DNR has consulted with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) through this and previous legislative efforts to address the issues related to the mapped Kenai and Kodiak State Game Refuges. These state game refuges aligned with the former Kenai National Moose Range and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge both originally established in 1941. Through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, both the Kenai and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuges underwent boundary changes, however the state game refuge boundaries were not updated accordingly. The repeal of the related sections of Title 16 does not alter existing protections or management, as ADF&G was not actively managing these state game refuges because United States Fish and Wildlife Service maintained regulatory authority on federal lands. Nonetheless, the ADF&G

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maintains primacy for management of all fish and game species, regardless of land ownership, statewide.

Please reach out to our department legislative liaison, Raymie Matiashowski, at (907) 317-5183 if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



John Crowther  
Commissioner-designee

Attachments: Northern Region Current Settlement Land-2026  
Southcentral Regional Current Settlement Land-2026  
Southeast Regional Current Settlement Land-2026  
Statewide Current Settlement Lands-2026  
CH 132 SLA 1992  
CNBC Ranking for America's Top State for Business 2025  
Forbes Best States for Business Ranking List

cc: Jordan Schilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office