

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please Support HB 105

I have lived and worked, built a home and raised a family in the Denali area for nearly 30 years. I work as a private naturalist guide, Science instructor for Alaska Geographic, have been on the Middle Nenana River Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 14 years and on the Board for Denali Citizens Council for 20 years. I am asking for your support of HB105, The Wolf Buffer Zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. This area should have been included in the original park boundary. The archaic use of bear bait stations in this area is not only unethical but has led to the recent demise of wolf packs and other important wildlife members of the Denali ecosystem. The importance of tourism and its dependence on wildlife viewing opportunities in Denali can not be overstated. In all my years on the Fish and Game AC I have been perpetually frustrated at the lack of consideration other members of the AC and the Board of Game give to other non-consumptive users of wildlife in this State. Please consider this issue important for wildlife and the tourism economy.

Thank you,

Nan Eagleson

I am an Alaska resident who supports HB 105 - to create a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail to prohibit trapping and shooting wolves in the Stampede Trail. The wolf population is declining and is an important part of the ecosystem which is imperative to Alaska's tourism industry. We need to protect our resources. As someone who has worked in the tourism industry for 10 years, it is an issue that is close to my heart. Our glaciers are melting at a rapid rate, let us not get rid of our animals too - a big draw of visitors to Alaska. Our economy depends on tourism. Lets pass this bill!

Cheers,

Crystal Jones

Nelchina, Alaska

I support HB105 which proposes creating a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail to prohibit trapping and shooting wolves in the Stampede Trail. Tourism rather than hunting will ultimately bring more dollars into our economy, and tourists love seeing wild wolves!

Janice Berry
Sierra Club member
Anchorage, AK 99515

Please support a no-take wolf buffer area next to Denali National Park. I am a children's book author/illustrator who has studied the issues around this subject extensively in order to write a balanced book. I am convinced that the buffer is essential.

Thank you

Elizabeth Hatton

ANCHORAGE 99516

Dear Senator Giessel,

My husband and I are long time Denali Borough locals with a combined 58 years of residency. We own property in the Wolf Townships/Stampede Corridor and live year round in Healy.

Since the elimination of a protective buffer zone in 2010 we have seen a drastic increase in Denali's wolves being deliberately and successfully targeted and killed, including animals wearing tracking collars as part of the National Park Service's longest research program.

It is not in our state's best interest to let a handful of unethical trappers purposefully decimate a resource that more than half a million visitors annually come here to see. Our local economy greatly depends on the \$600 million annual tourism revenues from Denali NP. The few park wolves left are worth a lot more alive and deserve protection. Hunters and trappers have millions of acres of accessible land with healthy wolf populations available to them right here within our borough, they do not need to kill Denali's wolves for their fur.

As a retired Alaska guide with over 20 years of experience in the tourism industry, I can attest to Denali visitors' high priority of seeing a park wolf.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Anja & Roger Phenix

Healy, AK 99743

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Resources Committee, I wish first to thank Chairwoman Giessel for granting the hearing on proposed HB105.

This is an important among many important resource and economic issues that make up the economic and cultural landscape of our state that is struggling to develop a sustainable economic future for us all who live here, therefore, your consideration with hearing time is important, appropriate and greatly appreciated.

I offer this statement of support for HB105 " Denali Wolf Buffer Zone" on behalf of Alaskans FOR Wildlife, an organization devoted to supporting Alaskan wildlife initiatives and policy with a membership primarily of Alaskans.

You of the committee and chair will have or already have received considerable input and information concerning the wisdom of passage of this bill which proposes protection for one of the wildlife species that is by its presence a major feature among the wildlife of Denali National Park, the presence of which is sought over recent years by millions of park visitors.

You are also apprised of a history of on again-off again protection for, in particular, park wolves that are lured by baiting onto a finger of state land known as the Stampede Trail that juts into the park, where this wildlife is mostly legally destroyed by trapping and hunting by a few local individuals.

You are abundantly apprised of the need to reestablish a no kill buffer for straying park wolves, a protection once offered and then withdrawn by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) You are likely also made aware that the BOG repeatedly has refused subsequent justification with proposals to reestablish this earlier protective buffer.

And you surely can thus conclude the BOG will not deal in any way with the damage current policy poses for park wolves.

To support HB105 and pass on though the senate process is a move that is wise and prudent and is something for all Alaska.

It's a true "Alaska thing" if you will in all respects, principally in that it, a living Alaska wildlife experience, represents an extremely potent building block in Alaska's economic future.

Predictably there will be reasons offered to cast this effort aside.

Similarly, there are multitudes of reasons already made obvious to look ahead, to move forward in support.

We ask that you cast aside the negatives and look to the many positives in support of a state initiative to establish a protective management area where a board of game steadfastly absolutely refuses to act.

The economics are already abundant in this consideration.

We Alaskans have a world class national park, unique - that's one-of-a-kind - which offers a wildlife and wild lands experience to an exploding urbanized world demographic who in a near future may be standing in line awaiting their turn to visit and experience what is a wildland, wilderness wildlife landscape that will or already does, rival anything like it.

Protective consideration for Denali wolves should be paramount in any deliberation over policy over which the State of Alaska can weigh in or, in this case, actually promulgate and enact legislatively.

We cannot and should not stand around and argue and dismiss the opportunity to set this straight.

Please act now and give enthusiastic support for the legislative proposal, HB105.

I and we are most grateful for this opportunity to speak and to ask for support.

We are also willing to consider any suggestions for actions that we can take to help make a Denali Wolf Buffer Zone a workable, desired, high value reality.

Sincerely,

Jim Kowalsky

Chair

Alaskans FOR Wildlife

Fairbanks, AK. 99708

Sen. Giessel

We are writing to sincerely request that your committee vote favorably to report out HB 105 regarding the protection of Denali National Park's iconic wolves when they range east of the Park boundary onto state land.

Thank you.

Tom and Jane Macham

Anchorage

Senate Resources Committee Members

I am a 56-year resident of Alaska, and own land next to the proposed Denali Wolf Special Management Area proposed in HB 105. I urge you to support this bill in order to protect Denali's high value population of wolves from a few renegade trappers and hunters who presently legally bait and kill large numbers of them that stray onto adjacent State lands.

After originally establishing a protective wolf buffer zone, the Alaska Board of Game later (2010) rescinded this protection and has stubbornly refused to reinstate it ever since. As a result, the number of wolves in Denali National Park has dropped so dramatically that tourists who come to the Park specifically to view wolves and other live wildlife now seldom see them. So, I believe a wolf buffer zone established with legislation (HB 105) by the Alaska State Legislature is the only way we're going to protect this extremely valuable resource.

Thank you.

Frank Keim

Fairbank, AK 99709

Dear Members of the Senate Resources Committee:

I'm writing to urge you to support HB 105. The bill prohibits hunting and trapping of wolves on Stampede Trail, which is immediately adjacent to Denali National Park. It's the only road into the Park and hunting and trapping have caused a 45% decrease in National Park visitor sightings of wolf from 2010. The wolf population has declined from 116 to 50 in 2014. Visitors now see more wolf in Yellowstone than Denali. Alaska's tourism industry as well as conservation of species, depends upon a robust number of wildlife in our State. Please vote to support HB 105.

Sincerely,

Libby Stortz

Sitka, Alaska

Alaska Resources Committee Members -

I am writing to urge you to support H.B.105 to prohibit hunting and trapping of wolves in the Stampede Trail corridor. There are many other areas in Alaska for hunters and trappers, but there is only one Denali National Park. Denali is a premiere destination for tourists and residents, most of whom visit to see wildlife. in 2014, less than 6% of park visitors saw wolves, down from 45% in 2010. Since 2006 the park wolf population has declined more than 50%. Please legislation to protect the wolf packs of Denali.

Sincerely,

Deb Ward

Anchorage, AK 99516

Hello,

I am asking you to support HB 105. I think it's wrong to bait animals and then kill them. Alaska is one of the last places with space and a little freedom for some animals. Please give this your support.

Thank you,

Aimee S. Bibb

Please support this zone to prevent rogue trappers and hunters for blowing away every wolf that steps over the Park boundary. People come to Denali from all over the world to see these wonderful animals and they do now stand a chance if this buffer zone is not created.

Thank you very much.

Jerri Roberts

Denali Park

Support this bill. The wolves in the Eastfork area are iconic reasons that Denali was protected in the first place. The value of this wildLIFE to the visitors to the park and the tourist industry that supports them far exceeds that of a few wolf pelts to some trappers in the Stampede area.

John Davies

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thank you for scheduling HB105 - Denali wolf buffer/closed area bill - in Senate Resources this Friday, March 23. I would like to add my voice to the many other Alaskans in support of this bill, and ask that your committee move the bill out of committee to the full Senate for a floor vote.

HB105 is supportive of Alaska's valuable wildlife viewing economy, and in particular will help restore the wolf viewing resource of Denali National Park. You are aware of the decline in that resource since the small buffer was removed by the state in 2010, and the science is perfectly clear that a small closed area along the boundary of the Park, as is proposed in HB 105, will restore and enhance this valuable economic resource.

The closed area would only shift the hunting/trapping activities of 2 or 3 people to further from the park boundary, but it would benefit over 70,000 Alaskans and over half a million outside tourists who visit the park each summer, many hoping to view wolves. The benefit/cost of this bill is strongly in favor of Alaskans statewide, as well as our wildlife viewing economy.

I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years, have raised my son here, and the first time he saw wolves was in Denali National Park. It was a childhood experience that every Alaska child deserves.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Holleman

Anchorage, Alaska

Please Support HB 105

I have lived and worked, built a home and raised a family in the Denali area for nearly 30 years. I work as a private naturalist guide, Science instructor for Alaska Geographic, have been on the Middle Nenana River Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 14 years and on the Board for Denali Citizens Council for 20 years. I am asking for your support of HB105, The Wolf Buffer Zone adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve. This area should have been included in the original park boundary. The archaic use of bear bait stations in this area is not only unethical but has led to the recent demise of wolf packs and other important wildlife members of the Denali ecosystem. The importance of tourism and its dependence on wildlife viewing opportunities in Denali can not be overstated. In all my years on the Fish and Game AC I have been perpetually frustrated at the lack of consideration other members of the AC and the Board of Game give to other non-consumptive users of wildlife in this State. Please consider this issue important for wildlife and the tourism economy.

Thank you,
Nan Eagleson
Denali Park, AK 99755

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing to ask you to support HB 105, protecting the wolves of Denali National Park. With tourism being the basis of our economy here in the Denali Borough, we will soon lose those tourists who come to see the wild animals of Denali if they are so rare as to be scarcely seen. The buffer zone, since it was reopened, has been the scene of opportunistic trappers, who bear bait and leave dead animals there to attract the wolves. There have been too many of the Denali wolves killed in this way. Please reinstate the Buffer Zone! Thank you.

Dianne Herman Cantwell, AK 99729

I am writing in support of this bill. Personally, I find the idea of baiting wild animals to make for easy pickings for hunters abhorrent in general, anyway. How is that actually a “hunt”? There’s neither hunting nor skill required. Beyond that, however, wolves are a vital and positive part of the ecosystem and we need to protect them instead of lure them into territories to eradicate them.

Thank you,
Stephanie Warnock
Anchorage 99508

I strongly support HB 105 and urge you to allow it to move forward for a vote by the full senate.

Thank you,
Edward A Schmitt MD
Soldotna, AK

Please support HB 105. I have lived thirty-five years in Alaska. I will never forget the one time I saw a wolf in Denali Park.

Mary Kancewick

I am writing to express my support of the buffer zone bill to reduce trapping of wolves and other predators in Denali. Wolves are a resource and deserve equal protection under park rules, not exploitation at the edges of the park. The benefit thousands of Alaskans get from tourists visiting Denali should outweigh the benefit of the few who trap at the edge of the park.

Please support HB105 to stop the decline in wolf populations and sustain the economic value of Denali to Alaskans.

Thanks,

Julia York

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Senator Giessel;

I'm writing in support of HB105 because of bear baiting in the area as the carcasses used in the traps attract wolves which are then targeted by hunters. A half million visitors visit Denali National Park per year. The economic value of "wildlife viewing" is enormous to the State of Alaska and should be supported by the Legislature.

Steve Turner

Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Senator Giessel,

I support HB105 creating buffer zone to prohibit trapping, shooting wolves near Denali National Park. A half million visitors visit the park yearly which has high tourism economic value.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Joan McBeen

Tenakee Springs, AK 99841

PLEASE support HB105 which proposes creating a buffer zone in Denali Park to prohibit trapping and shooting wolves near the Stampede Trail.

This is an area that juts into the northeast boundary of Denali national Park. Hunters, hunting guides and trappers place bear baiting stations laced with hog carcasses. These rotting hog carcasses attract wolves, bears, and wolverine to the bait stations, resulting in killing of wolves. - the results is the rapid decline in wolf population in Denali National Park.

A half million visitors visit Denali National Park per year.

Thus the economic value of "wildlife viewing" is enormous to the State of Alaska..

HB105 (creating a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail) which would prevent hunting and trapping of wolves in that area, passed the House last year in May, 2017.

It is now in the Senate Resources Committee.

I hope i can count on your support for the wolves and Denali park -two incredible resources for our tourism industries.

Thank you,
William Moody
Chugiak, AK

Subject: I support HB105

Thank you,
Regina Robbins
Anchorage, AK

Dear Senator Giesel,

Please support HB 105 to restore the buffer zone for Denali wolves. We have seen what has happened to this valuable resource in the last several years and steps need to be taken to bring it back. Tourism brings in more money than trapping, as you must know.

Thank you,
Linda Johnson
Anchorage

Dear Senator Giessel,

Please list myself and my family as very much in favor of HB105.

We are 50 year residents and appreciate the opportunity to view wildlife in our great State.

Having hunted for years when we lived in Southeast, I also understand the love of the sport for many Alaskans however, the majority of the hunters, like myself, hunt for food. The impingement to Trophy Hunters is far less than the certain loss of the healthy wolf population in the area. I thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Jim Ridgway

I support HB105 to create a buffer zone for wolves in Denali National Park. The park belongs to the wildlife who live there as much as or more than the people who visit there. But if we can only think about it from a human viewpoint, let's not forget the economic value of the park relies on the presence of active and healthy wildlife, most certainly including wolves.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Ann Yates
Anchorage AK

I strongly support the establishment of a buffer zone on the Stampede Trail to reduce the toll on wolves due to bear baiting. Wolves in Denali are an essential part of the ecosystem and are a source of revenue to Alaskans in the tourist industry for viewing.

Please vote for the passage of this bill.

Paul E Turner Ph.D.

Kenai AK 99611

Dear Rep Geissel,

Writing you in favor of HB 105. A buffer zone around Denali is a good idea. Baiting attracts a lot of other predators beside wolves , drawing them out of the park. Denali is a world class park and I think we can give it the protection it deserves for the good of all of us.

Thanks. Don Dumm

Dear Senator

I appreciate your regular news letters and your efforts to make living in Alaska good for all people. I'm writing you today to ask your support HB105 (creating a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail) which would prevent hunting and trapping of wolves in that area, passed the House last year in May. 2017. Where did do you stand on this topic?

Seeing as how this price of land hits into Denali Park, and that the trappers intentionally bait there, it seems obvious that the park is a haven for animals. It has been shown in many instances that when populations are allowed to grow in such places, they spread out. So in the future there could be wolves coming out of the park for the hunters. But if we decimate the current population, that won't happen.

Plus a half million visitors visit Denali National Park per year. Thus the economic value of "wildlife viewing" is enormous to the State of Alaska.

Thank you

Stefanie Tatalias

Dear Senator Giessel and Staff:

Just writing to let you know I support passage of HB 105, which would expand the buffer zone of no wolf hunting or trapping off of the Stampede Trail north of Denali NP.

Though I do live in Homer, I'm a property owner in the Healy area, about 5miles as the crow flies from the Stampede Trail. I'm a hunter too and another lifetime ago, as a teenager, I was once a trapper as well, so I'm not inherently opposed to either activity.

But sometimes our wildlife resources really do have value above and beyond that of a pelt, as hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to Denali National Park can attest. As an Alaskan, I'm proud to send visitors to that Park and know they have a really good chance of seeing an eye-popping view of our state's signature wildlife species, wolves among them. I think expanding the buffer area around the Park is key to maintaining a viewable, viable wolf population in the Park itself.

Randy Wiest

I understand there is a bill to create a buffer zone around Denali. Please support this. Wolves are being killed much faster than they are breeding in Denali. We need some balance.

Thank you

Judy Engh

Anchorage

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing in support of HB 105 which would create a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail for wolves. The Wolves of Denali are a great resource for Alaska. Many tourists come to AK primarily to see wildlife, and Denali is a major destination for this. The wolf population has declined dramatically in recent years due to trapping just outside the park boundary. It is now an extremely rare occurrence to see a wolf in Denali. In the first several years after moving here 15 years ago, we saw wolves on every trip to Denali. Recently I've had many years of Denali trips with NO wolf sightings.

Please vote in support of HB 105 to help increase to Denali wolf population—It'll benefit the wolves and our state through tourists visiting.

Thank you,

Mary Blenkush, MD

Eagle River AK

Dear Senator Giessel,

I am writing this email to support HB105 "An Act prohibiting the taking of wolves and the use of certain traps and snares in certain areas adjacent to the Denali National Park and Preserve."

My name is Yasuhiro Ozuru, an Anchorage resident. I am a outdoor person who enjoys hiking, fishing, and photography. I really love living in this great state because of access to unspoiled wilderness. Even though I was born in Japan, I proudly say that I am Alaskan now because of my love of this state. One specific concern that I have is steadily declining wolf population in Denali national park, - even though I have visited the Denali National Park 3 times in the past, I have never seen wolves. - I heard that, by now chance of seeing wolves in Denali, is significantly lower than one in Yellowstone. This is embarrassing symbolically, as Alaskan, and also economically concerning as we may be losing a lot of potential tourists to Yellowstone even though Denali offer much better experience as a whole. HB105 hits the right balance between protection of wolf from accidental kill and hunters on the one hand, and hunters/trappers right to legally take the game in the area adjacent to Denali National park. I believe there is almost no cost associated with this bill except for very small number of people (hunters and trapper); on the other hand, there is enormous benefit - public perception to Park visitors that the state is actually interested in protecting wolves in the park, possible increase in the wolf sighting that would result in larger number of tourists. Given the current economic situation in the state, I believe this is one of inexpensive measure to maintain state economy from further falling by providing support to tourism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards

Yasuhiro Ozuru

I support HB105. This is an area that juts into the NE boundary of Denali national Park. Hunters, hunting guides/trappers place bear baiting stations laced with hog carcasses. These rotting hog carcasses attract wolves, bears, and wolverines to the bait stations, resulting in killing of wolves. The results is the rapid decline in wolf population in Denali National Park.

A half million visitors visit Denali National Park per year thus making the economic value of "wildlife viewing" enormous to the State of Alaska..

HB105 (creating a buffer zone in the Stampede Trail) which would prevent hunting/trapping of wolves in that area, passed the House last year in May. 2017. It's now in the Senate Resources Committee.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Faith Moeller, Kotzebue, AK 99752

I am writing in support of HB 105, the Denali Wolf buffet zone. The Denali wolves are the most viewed and studied wolves in the world and deserve and need the added protection of a buffer zone alone the parks NE boundary. That we now do not afford them this protection at this time is a travesty. There are only a handful of hunters and trappers that have had a huge negative impact on this population within this proposed buffer zone when thousands of Alaskans and Alaska's visitors come to Denali to view them. The time is now to permanently establish this area to better protect one of Alaska's greatest assets.

Please vote to establish this buffer zone.

Juliette Boselli

Denali Park, Alaska

Dear Senator Giessel,

I work as a seasonal naturalist in Denali National Park and Preserve. The Stampede corridor adjacent to NE section of Denali National Park has been in contention since the incorporation of the Park. The animals have been suffering that long also. We need HB105 passed to protect the animals.

The caribou migrate out in that corridor for winter, the wolves follow for food, the wolves get shot. They are just doing what they need to do to make a living. Moose, brown bear, and lynx do the same since that area is best for food in the winter and protection. There are only a handful of hunters that hunt there but millions of visitors to Alaska that come during the summer to see these animals. The money brought in by the tourist far outweigh the money made by trappers or hunters with these animals. The community around Denali fare even better by the tourist dollars.

We would like to see the animals survive the winter, the eco-tourist see the animals and spend money, and the community thrive around Denali. This is a small section of land that needs just be prohibited from hunting wolves. It is not a take over by the federal government or pushing private land owners out. We want to protect the small group of wolves that give the Park a name for coming to visit.

VOTE for HB105 and thanks for the hearing this Friday.

Roy Catalano

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

I would like to see the buffer zone near Denali reinstated due to the major decline in the wolf population since the buffer zone went away. Since the zone was dissolved, the wolf population has declined drastically, and that affects tourist dollars.

Robert Cowell
