

**Fairbanks  
Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee**

**Interior Region  
Fish and Game Advisory Committees**

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**Virgil Umphenour**  
Chairman  
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Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta Junction	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Koyukuk River	Upper Tanana/Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

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To: Senate Resources

From: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (FAC)

RE: HB 105

Madam Chair Senator Giessel and members of the committee,

The FAC voted last year not to support HB 105 when it was going through the House. The FAC continues to oppose HB 105.

We believe that the Board of Game and the Department need flexibility of regulations to manage our wildlife resources and not strict inflexible statutory law or conflicts with other laws. For example, in the bill it states:

**“18 (b) Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent the department from**

**19 taking, or authorizing the taking of, wolves that present a danger to the health or safety**

**20 of local residents.”**

This language would not allow the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) to take wolves that are infected with dog lice as part of a control project to stop the spread of a non-indigenous aversive parasite, which has been detected in the area and surrounding areas. Also, if this were to pass, the DWC would not be able to take wolves in this area if in the future there needed to be an Intensive Management (IM) program. Moose in both Game Management Units 20C and 20A have a positive IM finding, as well as caribou in 20C. This bill if passed would thus conflict with existing IM law.

This Bill also conflicts with subsistence law, as it would eliminate an opportunity for subsistence hunters and trappers to take wolves in the prescribed area when there is a harvestable surplus. Furthermore, the bill restricts the size of leg hold traps that a subsistence trapper may use to no greater than 5” jaw spread. This would be a hardship for those subsistence trappers to replace traps that have a jaw spread greater than 5”. Traps commonly known as Number 4’s (which are widely used for trapping lynx, coyote, and wolverine) have greater than 5” jaw spread. This would also impact the subsistence user to be less successful harvesting and potentially harming or maiming other fur

bearers with lesser traps, such as lynx, coyote and wolverine. Trappers use the most efficient and effective equipment available to them. Limiting them to insufficient and less effective traps is not advisable from anyone's perspective.

The FAC also believes that the few wolves taken from the harvestable surplus by subsistence users in this area does not impact the economy in the region or the visitation to the park. It is well documented that visitation to the park has been at record levels. The tourism industry has also been very profitable at the same time.