THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Alaska Board of Game

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March 26, 2015

Representative Jim Colver
State Capitol, Room #424
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Colver:

As chairman of the Board of Game (Board), I'd like to thank you for introducing House Bill 153, an Act expanding the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge and relay to you the recent Board action to support the expansion. At the Central/Southwest Region meeting, the Board unanimously passed a public proposal, Proposal 105, requesting an expansion the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Although the Board has authority to expand or set aside game reserves or refuges under AS 16.05.255, it is subject to legislative approval. A copy of the proposal and comments submitted to the Board on the proposal including those from the local fish and game advisory committees are enclosed for your review.

The Board recognizes the refuge is one of the most important year-round wildlife and outdoor recreational areas in the state, providing several types of uses enjoyed by the public including waterfowl hunting, bird dog (retriever) training, trapping, bird watching, nature study, hiking, sport fishing, canoeing, winter snow machining and cross-country skiing, and photography. Since the Department of Fish and Game has been acquiring or assuming management responsibility of several parcels of land contiguous with the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge with the interest in adding them to the refuge, the Board agreed it is appropriate the refuge be expanded to include these parcels.

I look forward to listening to the legislative hearings and will keep the Board apprised of its' progress.

Sincerely,

Ted Spraker

Ted Spraker, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Enclosure

cc: Bruce Dale, Acting Director, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation