

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707
FAX (907) 465-4821

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 10, 2010

TO: Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chairman
Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chairman
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Senator Donald Olson
Senate District T

SUBJ: Request for Hearing – SB 144

I would like to request a committee hearing for this bill, which would authorize the issuance of a second permit for a musk ox hunt in a second Game Management Unit for qualified residents and subsistence hunters in Alaska. If a harvester does not take an animal under his or her first permit, this would double the chance they have to harvest one animal with a second permit. The current bag limit of one cow or bull would remain unchanged.

Musk oxen are the only game animals in the Arctic to which the one-permit restriction still applies. Wildlife biologists and regulators within the Department of Fish and Game have determined that the health and size of the state's herd is well past the threshold for expanding opportunities for Alaskan hunters. Under the provisions of SB 144, non-resident hunters would not be eligible.

The initial request to address this issue came from state game biologists in Nome who work directly with the state's wild musk ox herd. We have identified no opposition to SB 144, and would request teleconference service to hear from supporters.

Attached are a copy of the bill, a sponsor statement / sectional analysis, a copy of a poster about the state's musk ox herd, and a ZERO fiscal note from the Department of Fish & Game. Support letters are in process.

If there are any questions, contact Tim Benintendi of my office at 465-4989. Thank you.