

From: Frank Keim [<mailto:frankkeim@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2017 9:14 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 40

To Members of Resource Committee

Just a short story to underline the need to get those traps off the trails.

Yesterday I was cross-country skiing with a friend on the Fairbanks-Circle Historic Trail near Fairbanks. The trail we were on was a part of a recreational trapper's trap line, and it was spotted regularly with his traps only a few feet from the trail. My friend told me that his dog had just a few weeks before gotten his foot caught in one of those leg-hold traps and it was very difficult to get him out of it. It was so painful for the dog that he even bit my friend while being removed from the trap. Of course, the dog had to be taken to the vet to have his leg worked on afterwards.

This illustrates to me how important it is to have these traps removed as far as possible from the innocent victims who through curiosity and attraction to smell stumble into them. Please support HB 40.

Thanks.

Frank Keim

2220 Penrose Lane

Fairbanks, AK 99709

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"When the world seems to be falling apart, stick to your own trajectory; hang on to your own ideals and find kindred spirits."

Joseph Campbell: An Open Life

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of HB 40, a bill that will require trappers to not set their traps closer than 200 feet from trails. This is a common sense solution to long-term problems and conflicts between trappers and trail users, in which pets have been trapped, snared, injured and killed along Alaskan trails.

Although I myself am not a dog owner, I have watched for over fifty years as my friends worried about their dogs getting caught in traps while we were out walking or skiing. Instead of being able to allow their dogs to roam freely, as dogs will, back and forth and side to side along the trails, their owners need to be constantly vigilant to what their dogs are sniffing at, for fear they'll get into some bait and get caught in a leg-hold or Conibear trap.

Every year hundreds of dogs are hurt or killed, and it is only a matter of time before a child, children being curious and unaware of the danger, is also caught in a trap and injured or killed from a moment of inattentiveness or ignorance on the part of parents as to what a trap set looks like. There is no reason, other than laziness, that trappers cannot set their traps further off the trail, and 200 feet would seem to be a good compromise.

Compared to half a century ago, there are very few trappers these days in Alaska, and even fewer who depend on trapping for a living. Most trappers, at least along the road system, trap as a hobby, for the fun of it. On the other hand, there are thousands and thousands of people who use trails—for hiking, skiing, and for snow-machining. Why should the vast majority of trail users need to worry about whether or not their pets will be injured so a tiny minority of trappers can set their traps a few feet off the trail? Let them walk the 200' to make their set. It won't hurt them and it will foster peace between trappers and recreational trail users.

Please pass HB 40 into law.

Thank you,

John Breiby
5280 E McDowell Rd,
Wasilla, AK 99654

907-376-8818

Dear Legislative Staff;

I support HB 40 to establish a 200-ft setback from trails for traps in Alaska. This measure would permit trappers to continue their activities but help ensure that all other public lands users not have their pets caught and possibly be maimed or killed. During my thirty-six years in Alaska skiing and partaking of the wilderness, I've had numerous detrimental run-ins with traps for my dogs. This bill sure would be a good compromise for all parties. A 200-ft setback for traps from trails would end most of my dogs problems.

Thanks for your effort.

Sincerely,

Philip Marshall and Jan Lokken Marshall

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