

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE Senator Josh Revak

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SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 150

"An Act repealing the termination date for the intensive management hunting license surcharge."

Hunting is essential to Alaskans and is a staple of the Alaskan culture. It is of the utmost importance that the wildlife populations be maintained throughout our state so that future generations may provide food for their families and carry on the great Alaska tradition. In order to fulfill this genuine need for conservation, wildlife populations must be monitored, and certain regulations must be put in place to prevent over hunting and promote vibrant and healthy populations that are sustainable. This sustainability is what will maintain Alaska's long-standing connection to hunting for generations to come.

In 2016, the legislature initiated a surcharge for the "Intensive Management Program" under the Board of Game which manages Alaska's game populations based on scientific analysis. This program identifies if a population issue exists, and then determines the source of the issue, whether it is a habitat concern, a predator population shift, or the spread of disease. From here, the Board of Game is able to develop and adapt policies to meet the challenges and maintain wildlife populations across Alaska. Sustainability is what Alaska deserves and intensive management is how we achieve it.

Management programs have been a great success already, ensuring that there is wildlife to support the Alaskan tradition of hunting and living off the land. Currently, there is a sunset date on the user pay funds for the intensive management program and support the Alaskan tradition of living off the land. SB 150 seeks to permanently repeal that date and allow the program to continue their sustainability efforts for the populations that stand as an important food source for Alaskans. Without this legislation, the program will have to collaborate with the federal government to gain necessary resources; giving up much of the discretion currently held by the Board of Game. SB 150 enables the intensive management program to achieve the goals most paramount to the Alaskan way of life without the interference from the federal government, keeping jurisdiction local and food on our plates.