

February 15, 2021

The Honorable Josh Revak  
Chair Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB22 Letter of Support

Dear Senator Revak:

The Alaska Kenai SCI chapter is in full and strong support of passage of SB-22 to eliminate the sunset date on the surcharge on hunting licenses. The few dollars paid by hunters have provided necessary funds to conduct needed survey work to better manage our wildlife resources. There are several clear examples of how these monies have increased the department's ability to manage as well as hunter opportunity to increase harvest. The most obvious examples are the predator management programs conducted in Game Management Units 13, 16 and 20. However, not all these funds have been used for predator management. Funds collected under this program have created more opportunities for ADF&G to conduct survey and inventory work of other species, including non-game species.

Alaskans have a stanch dependence in their relationship with harvesting wild resources for food security, greater than any other place in our nation. As an example of this reliance, State Subsistence Division reported on a per person basis, rural residents harvest an average of 276 pounds of wildlife resources annually.

Our organization is dedicated to conserving Alaska's wildlife resources so they can be utilized by all Alaskans, we believe these few extra dollars added to the price of a license is necessary to carry out the mission of the state's wildlife management programs. Additionally, Alaska is by far the least expensive state to hunt in when comparing the cost of our license fees to other states and the amount of meat one can put in a families' freezer. In some areas, the bag limit for caribou is five per day, there are multiple bag limits for deer and a few areas allow two moose per person per year, furthermore, seasons are longer over most of the state as a result from well-funded survey efforts. The surcharge from for the Intensive Management Program eliminates any cost to Alaskan hunters for moose, deer or caribou tags.

In closing, the repeal of SB22 is a crucial to Alaskans who harvest wild game resources.

Sincerely,

The Alaska Kenai Chapter of Safari Club International