

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR SHARP

Introduced: 2/2/96
Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to a division of game in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
2 to management of game.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS Governor Steve Cowper changed the name of the Alaska Department of
5 Fish and Game, division of game, to the division of wildlife conservation on January 1, 1989;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, during the seven years under the new name, the primary mission of the
8 division, to manage the vast game resources of Alaska, has been seriously eroded and blurred;
9 and

10 WHEREAS the change of the name of the division has fostered fragmentation of
11 management goals that has resulted in building a bureaucracy of self-serving biologists and
12 administrators with nongame management agendas who justify decisions on public opinion
13 polls rather than current scientific biological data; and

14 WHEREAS the fragmentation of management goals has caused serious degradation
15 of the professionalism, self-esteem, and morale of the personnel of the division; and

16 WHEREAS blurring of the game management mission of the division has resulted in

1 serious misuse of millions of dollars of federal and state fish and game funds that are
2 statutorily mandated to benefit those hunters and sportsmen whose license fees and equipment
3 taxes provide funding for the division;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the number of actions
5 by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage people, instead of game, by reducing
6 harvests, implementing onerous methods and means regulations, and restricting access to
7 game, be kept at the lowest possible levels; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature finds that the game
9 resources of Alaska have the potential to be a truly growing "permanent fund," capable of
10 providing the highest harvestable and viewing benefits to all Alaskans; and be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urgently requests Governor
12 Knowles to reestablish the division of game within the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 and to reaffirm the division's primary mission to manage the game resources of the state to
14 achieve and maintain high sustainable levels of game for all Alaskans.