

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS BUNDE, Olson, Kookesh, Wagoner, Dyson, McGuire, Huggins, Davis

Introduced: 1/19/10  
Referred: Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Congress to reject S. 1535 and H.R. 3381, the Protect**  
2 **America's Wildlife Act of 2009, which seek to limit aerial hunting of wildlife.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** United States Senators Dianne Feinstein and Benjamin Cardin have  
5 introduced S. 1535 and United States Representative George Miller has introduced H.R. 3381,  
6 the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2009, which would amend the Airborne Hunting Act of  
7 1971; and

8 **WHEREAS**, by restricting the practice of using aircraft to manage predator  
9 populations to employees of federal and state wildlife agencies, S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 would  
10 inhibit the ability of sovereign states to use civilians in agency efforts to manage predator  
11 populations using aircraft; and

12 **WHEREAS** S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 target Alaska's predator control program and,  
13 specifically, the use of aerial predator control teams to manage wolf populations; and

14 **WHEREAS** all forms of aerial hunting are already expressly forbidden in the state,  
15 unless they are under the direct control of the Department of Fish and Game for predator  
16 control; and

1           **WHEREAS** art. VIII, Constitution of the State of Alaska, requires that the state's fish  
2 and wildlife resources be managed for the benefit of all Alaskans on a sustained-yield basis;  
3 and

4           **WHEREAS** supporters of S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 misrepresent the scope of Alaska's  
5 predator control program by characterizing it as a blanket statewide endeavor and using  
6 emotionally charged words such as "slaughter" and graphic photos to falsely portray a wildlife  
7 management practice that is beneficial to the overall long-term survival of both predator and  
8 prey; and

9           **WHEREAS**, under the intensive management provisions of AS 16.05.255, the Board  
10 of Game and Department of Fish and Game are required to set prey population targets and  
11 harvest objectives, primarily for moose and caribou in areas where human consumption is  
12 considered to be the highest priority; and

13           **WHEREAS** the state's intensive management law is based on peer-reviewed scientific  
14 evidence and undergoes a public review period; and

15           **WHEREAS**, contrary to accusations made by outside groups such as Friends of  
16 Animals and Defenders of Wildlife that the state's predator control program serves the selfish  
17 interests of big game hunters, hunters harvest only four to five percent of the total moose and  
18 caribou that die each year, while wolf and bear predation accounts for 70 to 80 percent of  
19 caribou deaths; and

20           **WHEREAS** active wolf and bear-intensive management currently occurs on less than  
21 10 percent of the state's total land mass; and

22           **WHEREAS** the killing of moose and caribou calves by bears and wolves threatens the  
23 long-term stability of moose and caribou populations; and

24           **WHEREAS** many Alaska families in both rural and urban communities rely on  
25 healthy populations of moose and caribou for their nutritional needs; and

26           **WHEREAS** an ongoing aerial intensive wolf control program has successfully  
27 increased the survival rate of southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd calves from less than  
28 one percent to 40 percent and, as a result, has increased the herd's overall numbers from a low  
29 of 500 to an average of 700 to 750; and

30           **WHEREAS** other western states, such as Wyoming, successfully use aerial predator  
31 control practices to maintain sustainable numbers of coyotes, and ranchers in Texas employ

1 the use of helicopters and professional hunters to reduce the number of wild hogs, which  
2 cause millions of dollars of crop damage annually; and

3 **WHEREAS** S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 would not directly preempt Alaska's current wolf  
4 control program but would do so indirectly by driving up the cost of the program; and

5 **WHEREAS** S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 would ban or make prohibitively expensive a  
6 proven form of intensive wildlife management; and

7 **WHEREAS** S. 1535 and H.R. 3381 are indirect efforts by antihunting organizations  
8 and legislators to end America's rich hunting tradition; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reserves to the  
10 states the powers that are not delegated to the United States nor prohibited by it to the states;  
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** decisions on how and when to use intensive and cost-effective wildlife  
13 management practices are best determined by individual states rather than the federal  
14 government;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly opposes S. 1535 and  
16 H.R. 3381, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2009, and urges the United States Congress  
17 to reject S. 1535 and H.R. 3381.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair, U.S.  
19 Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable James M. Inhofe,  
20 Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable  
21 Nick J. Rahall II, Chair, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources; the Honorable Doc  
22 Hastings, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources; and the Honorable  
23 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
24 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.