

Introduced: 3/1/85  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SHULTZ

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the control of wolf preda-

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tion.

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

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WHEREAS sound management of fish and game is critical to those state residents who are most dependent on subsistence resources; and

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WHEREAS wolf predation has a direct affect on ungulate populations such as moose, caribou, and sheep; and

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WHEREAS many of the animals that state residents customarily and traditionally depend on for subsistence are preyed upon by wolves; and

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WHEREAS wolf protectionist groups have distributed a great deal of information to the public concerning wolf behavior; and

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WHEREAS professional wildlife managers in the Department of Fish and Game are knowledgeable on wolf behavior; and

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WHEREAS state residents should be able to rely heavily upon the expertise of state wildlife managers for information; and

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WHEREAS state residents need reliable, accurate, unemotional information on which to base a decision concerning wolf control; and

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WHEREAS state residents who are incorrectly informed or emotionally sensitized may oppose wolf control to the detriment of the moose, caribou, and sheep populations; and

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WHEREAS the destruction of moose, caribou, and sheep resulting from lack of management of wolves may severely jeopardize subsistence hunting opportunities for local area residents; and

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WHEREAS Article VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, mandates that our game resources be managed on a "sustained yield basis,

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1 subject to preferences among beneficial uses"; and

2 WHEREAS state subsistence laws state that subsistence use of game  
3 animals is the highest and best use; and

4 WHEREAS state residents depend more heavily on moose, caribou, and  
5 sheep than on wolves for subsistence;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to  
7 direct the commissioner of fish and game and the Board of Game to manage  
8 moose, caribou, and sheep stocks so that customary and traditional subsis-  
9 tence activities are not diminished due to wolf predation; and be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urges the Governor to direct the  
11 commissioner of fish and game to implement a public education program on  
12 wolf behavior, equal in scale to those now being sponsored by wolf protec-  
13 tionist groups; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature, in recognition of the harmful  
15 effects that wolves may have on subsistence lifestyles, encourages members  
16 of local rural communities to work together to help solve wolf control  
17 problems in their areas.