

Offered: 4/19/85

Referred: Rules

Original sponsor: Shultz

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15 (Rules)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 Relating to the control of wolf preda-
6 tion.
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
8 WHEREAS sound management of fish and game is critical to those state
9 residents who are most dependent on subsistence resources; and
10 WHEREAS wolf predation has a direct affect on ungulate populations
11 such as moose, caribou, and sheep; and
12 WHEREAS many of the animals that state residents customarily and
13 traditionally depend on for subsistence are preyed upon by wolves; and
14 WHEREAS wolf protectionist groups have distributed a great deal of
15 information to the public concerning wolf behavior; and
16 WHEREAS professional wildlife managers in the Department of Fish and
17 Game are knowledgeable on wolf behavior; and
18 WHEREAS state residents should be able to rely heavily upon the
19 expertise of state wildlife managers for information; and
20 WHEREAS state residents need reliable, accurate, unemotional informa-
21 tion on which to base a decision concerning wolf control; and
22 WHEREAS state residents who are incorrectly informed or emotionally
23 sensitized may oppose wolf control to the detriment of the moose, caribou,
24 and sheep populations; and
25 WHEREAS the destruction of moose, caribou, and sheep resulting from
26 lack of management of wolves may severely jeopardize subsistence and sport
27 hunting opportunities for local area residents; and
28 WHEREAS Article VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska,
29 mandates that our game resources be managed on a "sustained yield basis,

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 and sport hunting activities are not diminished due to wolf preda-
10 tion; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urges the Governor to direct the
12 commissioner of fish and game to implement a public education program on
13 wolf behavior and the need for wolf management; 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.