

HJR

45

1/13/76

COMMITTEE REPORT

JUDICIARY

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker:

Date 1-16-76

The Committee on RESOURCES has had HJR 45

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

() recommends it DO PASS

() recommends it DO NOT PASS

() recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

() recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT

CS FOR _____ DO PASS

() "and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____

COMMITTEE

() reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

() "other"

Members signing the Majority report:

<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

<u>[Signature]</u>	recommends: <u>No Rec.</u>
_____	recommends:
_____	recommends:
_____	recommends:
_____	recommends:

[Signature] Chairman

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE:

By: Resolutions Committee

To: Amend SENATE BILL No. _____

Inter-resolution
HOUSE BILL No. 45

PAGE: 1

LINE: 22

Insert the word "NEW" after the
word "any"

Mr. Jim Gauthier
Box 44
Aleknagik, Alaska 99555
February 16, 1976

The Honorable Governor Jay Hammond
Office of the Governor
Juneau, Alaska

The Honorable Governor Jay Hammond:

I'm writing to you about our new "National Coalition for Gun Control", they want us to believe or feel that crime would lessen if guns were confiscated from us. The people here use guns as a primary means for getting game--most of the families are dependant on a subsistence way of life. I have a gun collection, I use some of my guns solely for hunting. I, and the people who signed their names below would not like our guns confiscated from us. I feel that if a person wants to kill someone he will do so despite a presence of a gun law. Thank-you for your time.

Yours truly,

Jim Gauthier
Jim Gauthier

c.c. Nels Anderson Jr.
George H. Hohman
Ted Stevens
Don Young
Mike Gravel

Jackie Moody
Margaret Dubart
Pauline Krause
Mabel Yato
Lydia Gardiner
~~John Anderson~~
Jingie E. Luchter
Virgil Luchter
William L. Luchter

Aleknagik
Aleknagik
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Dillingham
DILLINGHAM
"
"

David McMill	Dillingham	
Theresa Mubie	"	"
Wassillie Slutsk	Aleknegik,	
Sam z. Timber	Aleknegik	
Vera Krause	"	
Ivan Yako	"	"
Anecia Slutsk	"	"
Martha E. Baylla	"	"
Paula Truckwuk	"	"
Esther Conquest		
Jack Yako	"	"
Peter Andrews	"	"
Moses J. Chytlack	"	"
Patrits Kohen sr.	"	"
James Mowal	"	"
Andrew Maud	"	"
James Yako		
Alan Chytlack		

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~~Val ...~~
James E. Luckhurst
Virgil Luckhurst
William ...

Akiak
Akiak
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Dillingham
Dillingham
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David McGill	Dillingham
Theresa Mohn	" "
Wassilie Iltaitz	Aleknaigik
Sam: Timber	Aleknaigik
Vera Krause	"
Ivan Yako	" "
Anecia Iltaitz	" "
Martha E. Bayilla	" "
Rula Kuckwak	" "
Esther Conquist	"
Jack Yako	" "
Peter Andrews	" "
Moses J. Chytlack	" "
Patrits Kohen sr.	" "
Jens Mevol	" "
Andrew Mavel	" "
James Yako	"
Abba Chytlack	"

Dear :

This is in response to your recent letter concerning the impending action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to control the wolf population in certain portions of Alaska.

As you know, the National Wildlife Federation makes a special effort to closely monitor the status of all wildlife resources, especially those classified as endangered. For that reason, we are especially interested in the eastern timber wolf which is considered endangered in the "Lower 48" states but not in Canada or in Alaska. We have monitored for some time the situation in Alaska to insure that nothing is done to jeopardize the wolf's status in that part of its range. In this regard we have discussed the impending action with professional wildlife biologists at academic, state and national levels in an effort to accurately assess the present situation.

In our judgment, some recent news coverage given this issue has painted a distorted and unfair picture of the wildlife management efforts by authorities in Alaska. In many areas of Alaska, the population of wolves has increased to the point where moose populations, the wolf's primary prey, are drastically reduced. Specifically, the increase in the number of wolves, in combination with hunting pressures and several consecutive severe winters, has caused a serious decrease in moose numbers in Management Units 5, 13, and 20. The same factors have also contributed to poor moose calf survival.

Under present conditions, 90 to 100 moose calves are born for every 100 cow moose, but by winter, following heavy wolf predation, only 11 to 20 calves per 100 cows survive. The action of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is designed to temporarily reduce the wolf population to acceptable levels in relation to moose populations in study areas to hasten the increase of moose populations. It should be emphasized that this is not a campaign to exterminate wolves throughout Alaska. It is part of a research project to determine an optimum wolf-moose ratio beneficial to both species concerned.

Alaskan biologists estimate that the wolf population numbers between 8,000 and 15,000 individuals, of which fewer than 200 will be removed from the three management units affected by the wolf control study program. The 3,000 square miles of Unit 13 in which the State hopes to eradicate the wolf represents only 1/2 of 1 percent of the total wolf habitat in Alaska. Furthermore it is estimated that only 35-40 wolves inhabit that area. Total elimination of the wolf in that area will give wildlife researchers a better basis of comparison in determining the full impact of wolf predation on moose elsewhere in the State.

Only Alaska Department of Fish and Game professional personnel will be used in the approved wolf control program. This will insure that maximum scientific benefit will be obtained from the program and that wolves are taken only from the desired areas. Helicopters will be used as the most efficient and humane (no crippling) method of taking. This will also

permit recovery of all animals to further the research effort. No private aerial wolf hunting permits will be issued. Also, it should be noted that the State of Alaska has reduced the duration of the hunting season for moose and only permits the taking of bulls. This move should also help increase moose populations in the areas affected most adversely.

One further point: the wolf population in the Fairbanks area has increased to the extent that there are many documented cases of wolves preying on domestic pets within the city limits.

In summary, the National Wildlife Federation believes that the results of this study will assist in establishing management programs designed to bring wolf and moose populations into a state of dynamic equilibrium without placing the future of either species in jeopardy. We have confidence in the professional integrity and ability of the principal Alaska officials responsible for the stewardship of Alaska's wildlife resources. You may be assured that the National Wildlife Federation will keep abreast of current developments in this matter to insure that the wolf's welfare is safeguarded.

To assist you in gaining a better understanding of the situation in Alaska and to bring the picture into sharper focus, I enclose a copy of recent literature which you should find interesting and helpful.

We appreciate your concern for wildlife resources, and we solicit your continued support.

Sincerely,

LOUIS S. CLAPPER
Conservation Director

Enclosure
PL3/6

1/22/76

Re P. Nels Anderson
Pouch V. Juneau Alaska

Dear Sir:-

I want very much to see
Alaska exempt from federal
legislation ^{that would} prohibiting the
use of traps, hand guns &
long guns.

very truly yours

Lelana C. Johnston