

HB

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TELEGRAM

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PMS REP AL OSTERBACH

JUN

THE INTERIOR ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION STRONGLY SUPPORTS
HB81, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL DEVERT FUNDS DERIVED FROM
TRAPPING LICENSES FROM THE PERMANENT FUNDS TO THE FISH AND
GAME FUND. OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS PASSED RESOLUTIONS ANNUALLY IN
SUPPORT OF SIMILAR LEGISLATION. IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THESE
MONIES SHOULD HELP THE STATE OBTAIN FEDERAL MATCHING FUNDS
TO AID WILDLIFE

PETE BUIST PRESIDENT OF THE INTERIOR ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

January 23, 1979

Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill which would require that license fee receipts from the sale of trapping licenses be deposited in the Fish and Game Fund.

Receipts from trapping license sales generally go into the General Fund rather than the Fish and Game Fund. Apparently, this practice stemmed from a belief that the federal Pittman/Robertson Act applied only to hunting, and not trapping, licenses.

However, an analysis of the Act demonstrates a concern with game management and conservation rather than the nuances of any distinction between "hunting" and "trapping." The term "hunting" is not even defined in the Act. Consequently, it appears that it would be permissible to permit trapping license fee receipts to be deposited into the Fish and Game Fund, and that a statutory provision to that effect would not be an unconstitutional dedicated fund (art. IX, sec. 7, Alaska Constitution).

Past failure to include trapping license fees is illogical. The difference between hunting and trapping is established only by regulation governing methods and means, and can be modified by the Board of Game at any time. Many species of game which can be taken under hunting regulations may also be taken under trapping regulations. Moreover, several existing management and research programs carried out with Pittman/Robertson and Fish and Game Fund money are directed at furbearers of primary interest to the trapping constituency.

This legislation would provide an additional \$36,000 in the form of trapping license fee receipts to be included in the Fish and Game Fund. I urge enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

JSH

Jay S. Hammond
Governor

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TELESTAR

RCA ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

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