

CONFIRMATION

HEARING -

BOARD of

GAME,

1987

STEVE COWPER
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 27, 1987

The Honorable Sam Cotten
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Sam:

Governor Steve Cowper has reappointed Sidney Huntington, Joel Bennett and Nicholas Jackson to serve on the Board of Game. The Governor wanted me to inform you personally of his decision.

Many outstanding candidates qualified for this position, making this a difficult decision. The Governor appreciates your comments and recommendations and thanks you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila".

Sheila K. Gottehrer
Director
Boards and Commissions



**WILDLIFE
FEDERATION
OF ALASKA**

The Alaska Affiliate of the
National Wildlife Federation

DATE: May 1, 1987

TO: Sam Cotten
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

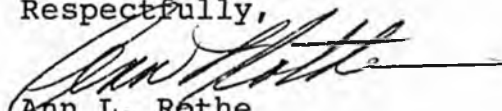
RE: Confirmation of Board of Game Appointments

I am writing on behalf of the Wildlife Federation of Alaska. We are the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation, the largest conservation organization in the world, with over 4.5 million members nationwide (8,000 of whom are Alaskans.) This is to inform you that we strongly support the reappointment of Joel Bennett to the Alaska Board of Game. Although our membership is composed primarily of hunters and fishermen, we think it is important to have representation on the Board that reflects the broad interests of all Alaskans, including nonconsumptive users. Mr. Bennett, a respected naturalist and cinematographer, has proven himself to be an excellent representative of nonconsumptive users (as well as consumptive users--Mr. Bennett is an avid hunter), and has time and again demonstrated a fair-minded approach to the complex wildlife management issues that have confronted the Board.

We strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Bennett's appointment to the Alaska Board of Game.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Ann L. Rothe
President

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
 (Revised February 27, 1987)

NAME AND ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

TERM EXPIRES

Joel Bennett
 114 West 6th Street
 Juneau, AK 99801

506-1255 (H)

1/31/90

try to call again

4/22

N/A ✓ 4/22

Sidney Huntington
 P. O. Box 27
 Galena, AK 99741

656-1212 (H)

1/31/90

4/23 spoke with him 8-10

msg → ✓ 4/22

Nick Jackson
 P. O. Box 123
 Gakona, AK 99586

822-3869 (H)
 822-3561 (W)

1/31/90

msg

✓ 4/23

Brenda Johnson (Chair)
 P. O. Box 924
 Nome, AK 99762

443-5761

1/31/89

Jay Massey
 P. O. Box 429
 Girdwood, AK 99587

783-2129 (H)
 276-2345 (W)

1/31/89

Sarah Scanlan
 c/o NANA Regional
 Corporation
 4706 Harding Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99517

345-6793 (H)
 248-3030 (W)

1/31/89

Victor Van Ballenberghe
 Institute of Northern
 Forestry
 308 Tanana Drive
 Fairbanks, AK 99775-5500

457-8166 (H)
 474-7443 (W)

1/31/88

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Division of Boards
 P. O. Box 3-2000
 Juneau, AK 99802-2000
 (907) 455-4110

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
(Revised February 27, 1987)

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u> 4/22
Val Angasan P. O. Box 89 Dillingham, AK 99576	842-5463 (H) 842-2386 (W)	1/31/89
Bix Bonney c/o Bob Penney 3620 Penland Parkway Anchorage, AK 99508	276-2222 (Mess.)	1/31/89
Ernie Carter 1208 Denali Way Fairbanks, AK 99701	456-4313 (H) 452-5186 (W)	1/31/88
Joe Demmert, Jr. 2724 4th Avenue Ketchikan, AK 99901	225-5376 <i>left msg 4/25</i>	1/31/90 msg.
Jesse Foster General Delivery Quinhagak, AK 99665	556-8315	1/31/89
Mike Haggren P. O. Box 2151 592 Kodiak, AK 99615	486-5477	1/31/90 msg. } ✓ 4/22
Gary Slaven P. O. Box 205 Petersburg, AK 99833	772-3675	1/31/90 n/a ✓ <i>msg 4/25</i> Beth Stone

Alaska Board of Fisheries members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Division of Boards
P. O. Box 3-2000
Juneau, AK 99802-2000
(907) 465-4110

RESUME

Sidney Huntington



Birthdate: May 10, 1915

Education: Grades 1 through 4

Family: Raised 14 children, adopted 1 child now 4 years old.

Occupational

Activities: Hunted and trapped over 50 years, full and part time.

Built roads to Hogatza mining and built 40 man permanent camp.

Foreman building mining dredge.

Foreman Morrison Knutsen Construction, 3 years.

Foreman carpenter for Air Force, 11 years.

Manage own business for over 20 years, still have it.

Civic

Activities: Member/Chairman of Huslia School Board, 1958-1962.

Member of Galena School Board, 1963 to present.

Member of Alaska Board of Game, 1974 to present.

No jail record.

Non drinker.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF BOARDS

APR 30 1987

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000
PHONE: (907) 465-4110

April 29, 1987

The Honorable Henry Springer
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Springer:

Your staff has asked for the number of days Board of Game members have missed during Game Board sessions. We have compiled that information for the years 1982-1987. Earlier records are archived and could not be retrieved and compiled in the time frame requested.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Number of Days Possible 1982 - 1987</u>	<u>Number of Days Missed</u>
Joel Bennett	157	6
Clint Buckmaster	22	0
Kirk Gay	88	19
John Hansen	42	0
Dick Hensel	22	0
Sam Harbo	81	1
Sidney Huntington	157	22
Nick Jackson	115	6
Brenda Johnson	135	0
Jay Massey	37	1
Jim Reardon	22	0
Sarah Scanlan	115	1
John Shively	20	7
Vic Van Ballenberghe	76	3

I hope that this information will suffice. If you have any questions about the information, we will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,



Beth Stewart
Director

cc: House Resources Committee
Board of Game Members

Resume

Nicholas (Nick) Jackson
Box 123
Gakona, AK 99586

PERSONAL DATA

Birth Year: 1936, Copper Center
Marital Status: Married, 5 children

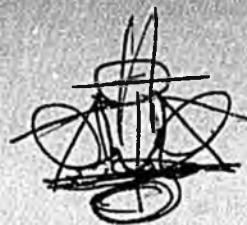
JOB EXPERIENCE

Present	-Ahtna Construction, teamster
1980 - Present	-Ahtna, Inc., President
1979 - 1980	-Ahtna, Inc., Vice President
1975 - 1978	-Ahtna, Inc., General Manager
1974 - 1975	-Ahtna, Inc., Treasurer
1965 - 1973	-Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Fish and Game Technician, Glennallen

Other experience:

Involved in hunting, fishing and has been a trapper.

May 1, 1987



CONFIRMATION HEARING - GAMEBOARD

by House Committee on Resources
Rep. Heinrich Springer, Committee Member

Questions to Mr. Joel Bennett

I don't know Mr. Bennett personally and don't recall every meeting him. I am only concerned about the future of Alaska's natural resources and some of the economic and social implications.

I deeply respect any board members because of their willingness to work hard, address controversial issues and serve with dedication, usually without appreciation by the public. This includes Mr. Bennett.

My questioning is based on the fact that I have received communications in the ratio of 50 against/4 for confirmation of Mr. Bennett to date; primarily from Southeast and Interior Alaska.

1. Would you care to comment why there is such strong anti-confirmation indication?
2. How do you interpret the State's Constitution demand to utilize, develop and maintain natural resources including wildlife, or "the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses? (Article VIII, Section 4).
3. There have been numerous complaints that you ignore the recommendations of the "Local Advisory Committees". Any comment?
4. How do you feel about the role of trophy hunting as a game management tool?

Do we sufficiently use it as an economic "industry"?

5. What do you think about culling or trophy hunting of selected old animals in Parks or Refuges under the direction of Park personnel?

6. What comments do you have on Sea-Mammal Management?
 - a) Do you favor the State taking it over?
 - b) What is your stand on sports hunting for polar bear and walrus? (under the Canada/NWT model)

7. How do you feel about predator control in game management? Large predators like wolves, bear, etc.?
Small predators like lynx, martens, etc.?
 - a) Predator control in relation to prey populations? (what to do if prey declines steeply?).
 - b) Predator control in relation to domestic or semi-domestic stock? (reindeer - wolf, grizzly)
 - c) Predator control in relation to threatened species? (coyote - dusky Canada goose, foxes - Aleutian Canada goose, etc)

8. What is your stand on subsistence hunting?
 - a) Should only traditional use be allowed?
 - b) Should taking without regard to age, sex or abundance status be allowed?
 - c) Should there be open and closed seasons for taking of subsistence-utilized species?
 - d) Should subsistence taking of threatened species be allowed?
 - e) Should taking of species covered by international treaties be allowed? (migratory birds, etc.)

9. What are your comments about trapping.
- a) Do you think our present regulations are okay?
 - b) What do you think about "aerial trapping"?
 - c) What about more liberal taking of cyclic animals at the peak of a cycle?

10. Do you think there should be tighter regulations about non-consumptive use of natural resources?

(restrict entry in areas during critical breeding periods, restrict activities like photography, tape recording of some species, example: only known bristle thighed curlew breeding area north of Mountain Village is inactive because of excessive "birder"-activities during breeding season, peregrine falcons at Big Delta, etc.).

Should there be license fees for more-consumptive use?

Although the following has little to do with your confirmation, I would be interested in your observation on:

- a) ADF&G budget. Based on FY 87, do you think their operating budget is sufficient to fulfill the governmental tasks for their department?

Is there sufficient monetary balance between the individual divisions?

In your experiences as a boardmember for 7 years, do you think the ADF&G is doing a good job in general terms? Are there any areas you feel are deficient?

Any comments on Governor Cowper's FY 88 budget proposal?

- b) Public Safety - Fish and Game Law Enforcement

Do you think they have sufficient funding to fulfill their tasks?

In your experiences is our present enforcement effort effective and sufficient?

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF FISHERIES/BOARD OF GAME
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SUPPORT BUILDING
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

March 5, 1973

RESUME

Joel Bennett
114 West 6th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-1255

Age: 39

Residence in Alaska; 14 years, 2 months

Education: BA, Washington and Lee University

LLB, Washington and Lee School of Law, 1968

State Bar Membership: Virginia, 1968
Alaska, 1976

Employment: Staff attorney to the Alaska State Legislature, 1968-1976,
specializing in natural resources and wildlife law

Member, State Board of Game, 1972 to present

Self employed, Bennett Film Productions, specializing in natural
history and wildlife programs for television: regular cameraman
Director for Survival Anglia, Ltd., London, producing four
internationally distributed films for television since 1971.

Military Service: Alaska National Guard, 1968-1974, retired 1975, Captain



National Audubon Society

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE
308 G STREET, SUITE 219, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 (907) 276-7034

DATE: April 29, 1987

TO: Sam Cotten
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

RE: Confirmation of Board of Game Appointments

This is to inform you that the National Audubon Society and its 2,600 members in Alaska strongly support the reappointment of Joel Bennett to the Alaska Board of Game. We think it is important to have representation on the Board that reflects the broad interests of all Alaskans, including nonconsumptive users. This is particularly true given that the industry which represents the major source of nonconsumptive use--the tourism industry--provides significant contributions to our state's economy each year. Mr. Bennett, a respected naturalist and cinematographer, has proven himself to be an excellent representative of nonconsumptive users (as well as consumptive users--Mr. Bennett is an avid hunter), and has time and again demonstrated a fair-minded approach to the complex wildlife management issues that have confronted the Board.

We strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Bennett's appointment to the Alaska Board of Game.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

David R. Cline
Regional Vice President

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE
ORIGINAL.

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS

FROM FOR CUTOFF NAGESNA RD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON CONFIRMATION OF BOARD OF GAME MEMBER JOEL BENNETT

Our advisory committee has watched Joel Bennett ignore Advisory Committees and Regional Councils recommendations about predator control continuously. The Alaska Constitution mandates the State to manage game on a sustained yield. Evidently, Mr. Bennett does not intend to manage the game for sustained yield. He has ignored testimony from the State Fish and Game Biologists and made recommendations that are nothing but emotional and political. During the meantime our game seasons are getting shorter and permit hunts have had to be implemented.

His voting record speaks for itself. He has served 7 years on the Game Board. The seasons were much longer 7 years ago than they are now. Joel Bennett's voting record shows lack of active game management. Statistics have proven with active Game management, game can and will be abundant.

The Alaskan voters elected a new governor because they wanted a positive change in the administration including the Game Board. When the new Governor reappointed Joel Bennett, the majority of the consumptive users were devastated. We were looking forward to working with members who wanted to manage game. Joel Bennett was not our choice. We know there was an abundant amount of opposition to his reappointment.

We have no objection to a non-consumptive user on the Game Board, but we feel this member should be there to manage game on a sustained yield. Our area has lower moose populations than ever before. If a non-consumptive representative would work towards active game management, tourists and other user groups would benefit alike. The consumptive user, both resident and non-resident, brings a lot of revenue to the state. The guiding industry brings in a lot of revenue. Guides, local transporters, hotels, lodges, license vendors, and taxidermists are just some who receive revenue from the consumptive user. This money stays in the state. License fees are matched by federal funds whereby ADFWG receives more money for research and management.

We respectfully request you not confirm Joel Bennett to the Board of Game.

3211 Shamrock Street
Anchorage, AK. 99504

April 25, 1987

The Honorable Ramona Barnes
Alaska State Legislature
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK. 99811

Dear Representative Barnes:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting information on the Game Board appointees. My comments and observations follow:

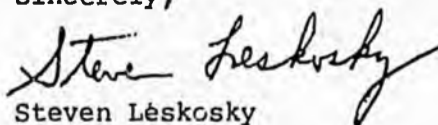
1. Mr. HUNTINGTON. He should be confirmed because he is knowledgeable on wildlife management and will not let special interest groups influence his decisions. He will not vote for subsistence use (even though he is a Native) if such use will adversely effect a species. He has done a good job!
2. MR. JACKSON. He should NOT BE CONFIRMED because he represents special interest groups (subsistence users, Natives, etc.). He has consistently voted for very liberalized seasons where it would benefit subsistence users, even at the expense of wildlife. He has pushed and voted for subsistence (moose) hunting in the Togiak area where moose populations are dangerously low. In the past, he has called for twice the number (and got it) of moose permits recommended by Department biologists, in Unit 13 when the excess (double) number of permits would have reduced the herd too severely. His voting record illustrates he has put subsistence use and Native interests above good wildlife management. He has not, and cannot be objective when it comes to wildlife management.
3. MR. BENNETT. He, also should NOT BE CONFIRMED to the Game Board. Bennett represents special interest groups, such as subsistence users, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Greenpeace, etc.). He consistently votes for closed seasons and tight restrictions, almost to the point of being anti-hunting. He is totally against wolf control and wants no season on predators. Of the four proposals to liberalize seasons on predators (coyotes, etc.) so as to reduce predation on the Dusky Geese (very low populations currently), Bennett has voted against all of the proposals. He would like to see all of Alaska as "one big park, with no hunting permitted".

Messrs Jackson and Bennett have voted for rulings and decisions to favor subsistence use and restrict non-resident hunting. Out of state hunters each bring \$10,000 plus, into the state. Restricting them reduces revenues and hurts the guiding industry. Alaska's Game Boards became nationally famous because former governors (Egan, Hammond, etc.) appointed highly qualified people to the Boards. That changed when Sheffield turned the Game Board into a political puppet, returning political favors for special interest groups. He placed Alaska's big game on a collision course with disaster. Now governor Cowper is perpetuating Sheffield's Folly.

Sheffield, Cowper and many of our legislators do not realize the huge amount of dollars brought into the state by out of state hunters and tourists. Surveys show that many tourists come to Alaska to see our wildlife. When Alaska's big game populations are drastically reduced due to politically based decisions made by unobjective unqualified Game Board members, the State will pay the price in lost revenues. My observations are based on attendance at Game Board hearings, analyses of the voting records of Board members, and of having worked in the conservation field over 24 years.

We hope that the Senate and House reject the appointments of Messrs Bennett and Jackson. We also hope that the Alaska Legislature has the courage to pass legislation to require the governor to appoint highly qualified board members, who will put the needs of Alaska's wildlife first and foremost. The governor should not be allowed to use the Game and Fish Boards to return political favors...at the expense of the State's wildlife resources.

Sincerely,


Steven Leskosky



Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

SEACC • P.O. Box 021692 • Juneau, Alaska 99802 • (907-586-6942)

April 29, 1987

Representative Adelheid Herrmann; Co-Chairwoman
Representative Sam Cotten; Co-Chairman
Alaska House Resources Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Rep. Herrmann and Rep. Cotten:

On behalf of SEACC, I want to go on record in strong support of retaining Joel Bennett as a member of the Board of Game.

We feel that over the years Joel has proven himself to be a fair-minded and very thoughtful hardworking member of the Board of Game. He also has the background and interest that help provide a good balance to the Board's careful deliberations.

With all the above in mind, we respectfully urge you to retain Joel Bennett.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Bart Koehler
Executive Director