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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

SENATOR VIRGINIA COLLINS

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Cliff Davidson, Chair
House Resource Committee

FROM: Senator Virginia Collins *VM*

DATE: March 22, 1991

RE: Senate Bill 116, "An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison; and providing for an effective date."

I respectfully request that you schedule the above-referenced bill for a hearing at your earliest convenience. Senate Bill 116 passed the Senate by a unanimous vote. The revised fiscal note indicates that revenue would be generated on an increasing level from FY93 through FY97.

Under current law, the application fee for a drawing permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction Bison Range Area is \$10 and the fee in both the Farewell and Chitina herd areas is \$5.

This bill would increase the fee in the Farewell and Chitina areas to \$10 so the fee would be consistent for the three areas.

This fee increase would allow for better range and herd management in each of the areas. Current funding is inadequate. Management includes providing areas of adequate forage for the bison, making aerial surveys to gather herd data including population figures, equipping some of the herd with tracking collars, and checking the herd for disease.

There is an increasing interest in bison hunts. The hunt is unique in North America and there is a growing demand and market for the meat. Applications are on the increase. Adequate funding to allow good management is imperative.

Please contact Marveen at 465-2828 if you have any questions.

BISON



Senate Bill 116

"An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison; and providing for an effective date."

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- g. Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders, Inc. letter of support
- h. Alaska Outdoor Council letter of support



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SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 116

Senate Bill 116, "An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison; and providing for an effective date."

Under current law, the application fee for a drawing permit issued by the Department of Fish and Game for the hunting of bison in the Delta Junction Bison Range Area is \$10 and the fee in both the Farewell and Chitina herd areas is \$5.

This bill would increase the fee in the Farewell and Chitina areas to \$10 so the fee would be consistent for the three areas.

The fee increase would allow for better range and herd management in each of the areas. Current funding is inadequate. Management includes providing areas of adequate forage for the bison, making aerial surveys to gather herd data including population figures, equipping some of the herd with tracking collars, and checking the herd for disease.

There is an increasing interest in bison hunts. These hunts are one of only a few in the U.S. and Canada and there is a growing demand and market for the meat. Currently, the Alberta herd and the Yellowstone herd is experiencing an outbreak of a serious disease and many of the animals are having to be slaughtered. Applications are on the increase in Alaska. Adequate funding to allow good management is imperative.

This bill is supported by the Department of Fish & Game and the fiscal note indicates revenue increasing over the next five years. This bill is also supported by the Alaska State Muzzle Loading Association and the McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club, Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders, Inc., and the Alaska Outdoor Council. Since no spring Farewell or Chitina bison hunt is anticipated, the fee increase would be effective with the 1992 fall hunt.

Your support of Senate Bill 116 would be appreciated.

SENATE BILL NO. 116
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR COLLINS

Introduced: 2/13/91
Referred: Resources and Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison; and providing for an effective
2 date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 16.05.346(b) is amended to read

5 (b) The application fee for a drawing permit issued by the department for the hunting of
6 bison [IN THE DELTA JUNCTION BISON RANGE AREA] is \$10.

7 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 1992.

FISCAL NOTE

REVISED

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 116

Revision Date: March 11, 1991 Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act relating to permits BRU: Div. of Wildlife Conservation

for the hunting of bison Component: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Senator Collins

Requestor: _____ COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

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Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	0	\$15.5	\$17.9	\$20.5	\$23.6	\$27.2
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: No FY 91 or FY92 impact.

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Projected revenue assumes (1) no Spring 92 Farewell bison hunt, and (2) an annual 15% growth rate in permit applications for the next few years, similar to the long-term increase in applications for the Delta Junction bison permit hunts.

Prepared By: Phil Kochl Phone: 465-4190

Division: Wildlife Conservation Date: 3/11/91

Approved by Commissioner: *Benjamin*

Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 3/11/91

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 116

Sponsor: Senator Collins

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: An Act relating to permits for the hunting of bison

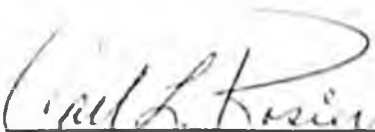
Department Position: Support

Application fees for drawing hunt permits for big game have been set by the Legislature at \$5. In 1985, the application fee for the popular bison hunts in the Delta Junction area were raised to \$10 to provide extra funding to help cover bison range management costs. At the time, hunting of Alaska's other 3 bison herds was very limited.

This bill would raise the application fee for permit drawing hunts for bison in the Chitina and Farewell herds and thus equalize the fee at \$10, statewide. The number of applications for the Farewell permit drawing has grown rapidly in recent years, and the hunt is heavily oversubscribed (in 1990-91 approximately 2700 applications for 70 permits). Hunting of the Copper River bison herd is currently managed by registration permit (no application fee is required). In the next few years, that hunt also will likely become a drawing permit hunt.

The increase in the application fee would provide a modest revenue source to the Fish and Game Fund. Although those funds cannot be dedicated, separate accounting would allow the department to allocate additional funds for bison range management and other projects that would benefit bison.

Commissioner's Signature



Date

2/20/91



ALASKA STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION

166 1 2 831

February 21, 1980

Senator Virginia Collins
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 116 (Bison permit fees)

Dear Senator Collins:

Because of historical interest our organization has a vested interest in the well being and health of the State's Bison herds. Bison are a very limited and highly prized game animal. We believe that it is important that the area Biologists have adequate funding to insure that they have the necessary information so that they can professionally manage the herds to meet the management objectives.

Therefore our organization fully supports the bill (SB 116) that you have introduced to raise the Bison drawing permit application fees to \$ 10 for all drawings (not just the Delta herd). Many of our members are hunters (both "subsistence" and recreational) and we support the "concept" of "user" fees that can help meet the management objectives.

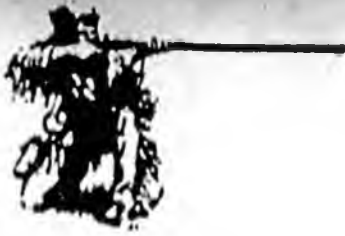
Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim R Crawford".

Tim R Crawford, President
Alaska State Muzzle Loading Association
10034 Goodnews Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

265-4800 (w) 344-1783 (h)





McKinley Mountaimen

MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE CLUB

P.O. Box 770555
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-0555



February 22, 1990

Senator Virginia Collins
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Regarding: S.B. 116 - Fees charged for Bison hunting permits.

Dear Sonator Collina:

Our club was quite pleased to learn of your introduction of a bill to increase the permit fees charged for Bison hunting applications to \$ 10.00 for all the Eison permits and not just the Delta herd applications.

Alaska Bison are a limited resource that require effective management to insure that herds are maintained at the carrying capacity of their ranges. We fully support your Bill, S.B. 116, and hope that the additional income earned from the drawings held for biological harvesting will be able to benefit the management of those herds for which drawings are held.

Sincerely Yours,

Keith Bayha, President
Mckinley Mountaimen Muzzleloading Rifle Club.
10443 Highbluff
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
Home: 694-4123

MIDNIGHT SUN MUZZLELOADERS, INC.
P.O. BOX 10612
FAIRBANKS, AK 99710
CHARLIE BIERMAN, PRESIDENT

SENATOR COLLINS
REF: SENATE BILL #116

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS:

I SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO RAISE THE BISON DRAWING APPLICATION PERMITS TO \$10.00 FOR ALL DRAWINGS, NOT JUST THE DELTA HERD. I BELIEVE THAT THE AREA BIOLOGISTS SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO MANAGE THE HERDS.

CHARLIE BIERMAN
PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie Bierman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



MAR 10 1991

ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.

March 11, 1991

Senator Jay Kerttula, Co-chair
Senator Pat Pourchoi, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senators:

The Alaska Outdoor Council supports SB 116, a bill to establish parity among drawing permit application fees for bison hunts.

Hunters, trappers and fishers generally subscribe to the "user pay" philosophy, as evidenced by their advocacy of Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, waterfowl stamp, and similar "user pay" state and federal laws. The Council opposed increased hunting and fishing license and tag fees proposed during the 16th Legislature for various reasons, foremost among them the reluctance of the previous administration to address long standing resource management concerns of hunters, trappers and sport fishers. We anticipate some change in that regard, but in any event, bison management has generally accomodated our interests. Given the potential for funding reductions for fish and game management, SB 116 will help ensure adequate funding for programs that have addressed conservation needs, including hunting opportunity. We are pleased that Senator Collins introduced this legislation, and thank her for her efforts.

Please pass SB 116.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Bishop
Legislative Affairs

cc: Governor Walter J. Hickel
Senator Collins

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: CHARLIE DIERMAN
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 533 ALBERTA
CITY: FAIRBANKS ZIP: 99712
PHONE: H/R-
BILL NO: SB 116
SUBJECT: BISON HUNTING PERMIT FEES
MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS LEGISLATION PASSED AND SUPPORTED. THANK YOU.
EOM/CLS

POMID: 07150107
DATE: 91/04/17
TIME: 15:01:07
LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

LINCOLN
IVAN
HOYER
FINKELSTEIN
CARNEY
HUDSON
LEMAN
ZAWACKI

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: REPRESENTATIVE DAVIDSON

NAME: TIM CRAWFORD
TITLE:
ADDRESS: 10034 GOODNEWS
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99515
PHONE: 344-1703
BILL NO: SB 116
SUBJECT: BISON HUNTING PERMIT FEES
MESSAGE: ON BEHALF OF ALASKA STATE MUZZLE LOADING RIFLE ASSOCIATION, I
ENCOURAGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR SB 116. THIS WOULD RAISE FAIRBANKS BISON PERMIT FEES
THE SAME LEVEL AS ALREADY BEING CHARGED TO DELTA BISON PERMITS. ADDITIONAL
FUNDS NECESSARY FOR LOCAL FIELD BIOLOGIST HERD MANAGEMENT. THANK YOU. /CHR

POMID: 03111901
DATE: 91/04/17
TIME: 11:19:01
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES

LINCOLN
IVAN
HOYER
FINKELSTEIN
CARNEY
HUDSON
LEMAN
ZAWACKI