

HJR

56

HFIN

FILE

(11)

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date Referred to Committee: March 15, 2000

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 3/16/00

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HJR 56

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56

CONST. AM: WILDLIFE INITIATIVES

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska prohibiting certain initiatives relating to wildlife.

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute _____ the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

fiscal note(s) _____

fiscal note(s) of of Lt Gov 3/3/00

zero fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Therrault	✓			
	Phillips	✓			
	Williams	✓			
	Bunde				✓
	Austerman			X	
	J. Davies		X		
	Foster	X			

CO CHAIR'S SIGNATURE Gene Therrault

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: HJR 56
 (H) Publish Date: 3/3/00

STATE OF ALASKA
 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected _____ Office of the Governor _____
 Title Constitutional Amendment: Prohibiting certain BRU Elective Operations
initiatives relating to wildlife Component Elections
 Sponsor Representative Morgan
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 21

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	1.5					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1.5					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This figure includes the cost of providing information about this issue in the Official Election Pamphlet, as required by AS 15.58. However, only six measures can be printed on an 8-1/2 by 14 inch ballot. If this measure requires printing an 8-1/2 by 18 inch ballot, the cost will increase by \$22.0.

Prepared by: Gail Fenwick
 Division: Division of Elections
 Approved by: Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer
 Agency: Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Phone: 465-3935
 Date/Time: 2/23/00 12:04 PM
 Date: 02/23/2000



Alaska Outdoor Council

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 Fairbanks, AK 99707-3902
 TEL/FAX: (907) 455-4AOC (4262)
 e-mail: outdoor@polamet.com
 web: www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

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**Executive
 Director**
 Rose Vander-
 Zande.
 Fairbanks

February 25, 2000

The Honorable Carl Morgan
 State Capitol, Room 409
 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Morgan:

The Alaska Outdoor Council strongly supports HJR 56, your measure proposing a constitutional amendment to restrict use of the initiative process in wildlife management.

Alaska currently enjoys a very open, democratic, and accessible system for development of policies and regulations to manage wildlife. Based on our constitution (among the best in the Nation for wildlife conservation and allocation), Alaska's statutory framework, and the Board and Advisory Committee structure, there is so much opportunity for public involvement that it is consistently underutilized. Putting wildlife management off limits to the initiative process will not diminish meaningful public opportunity to participate in Alaska's rigorous and rational wildlife management decision-making process, in fact, it may encourage it.

The initiative process, by contrast, has been used in Alaska and elsewhere to avoid the critical professional and public review of wildlife management proposals. Instead, the initiative process has been abused by promoting "Ballot Box Biology," a technique that markets an emotionally pitched and simplistic action to promote a single interest. Through clever advertising paid for by the single interest supporters, "Ballot Box Biology" takes advantage of a misinformed public to win issues based on the "majority of the moment." Professional management and the values held by people with different interests are simply ignored or dismissed.

"Ballot Box Biology" is not the way to manage renewable resources. The Board and Advisory Committee system works, as evidenced by the fact that the Board of Game most often rejects "Ballot Box Biology" demands. We applaud your efforts to head off further abuse of the initiative process and attempts to "end-run" the outstanding Alaskan system for managing our incomparable wildlife. Again, thank you for your efforts and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dick Bishop
 1st Vice President



750 W. 2nd Ave. #109, Anchorage AK 99501 / Ph. 907-258-6171 / Fax 907-258-6177

P.O. Box 22151, Juneau AK 99802 / Ph. 907-463-3366 / Fax 907-463-3312 / unite@akvoice.org

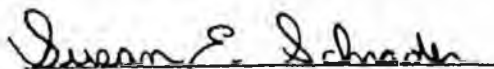
HJR 56 ~ Constitutional Amendment: Wildlife Initiatives

TO: House Finance Committee Members
FROM: Susan Schrader, Conservation Advocate
DATE: March 16, 2000

Alaska Conservation Voters, formerly Alaska Conservation Voice, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 40 Alaskan organizations and business members represent over 22,000 registered Alaskan voters. We have consistently opposed efforts by the legislature to limit Alaskan's constitutional right to participate directly in the law-making process through the initiative process. HJR 56 is yet another attack on that right.

We are opposed to HJR 56 for the following reasons:

- ◆ While this proposed amendment to the constitution appears to be limited to initiatives dealing with wildlife, on a more fundamental level it represents an erosion of public access to government. We can debate the "ballot box biology" issue endlessly, but when one group of Alaskans are denied an opportunity to address an issue they strongly believe in by the initiative process, the freedom of all Alaskans to express their will through direct democracy is threatened. Public policy issues addressed by the initiative process receive far more discussion and debate than many of the hundreds of bills passed by the legislature every year. The process is out in the open as contrasted to the often clandestine route bills can take to become law.
- ◆ Supporters of this resolution endorse placing the scientific process of wildlife management back into the hands of the ADF&G and Board of Game. Yet ADF&G takes direction from the legislature and the legislature, through its confirmation process, essentially chooses the members of the Board of Game. Thus, the initiative process is an important check on the power of the legislature. Alaskans are being asked to relinquish their right to vote on wildlife management issues on the grounds that we are not competent enough to do so. Instead, we are being told to trust the decisions resulting from a unbalanced process that currently promotes the principles of intensive game management and the values of consumptive users to the near-exclusion of other users.
- ◆ Our constitution's sustained yield and multiple use provisions have served all Alaskans and our wildlife very well – it protects the interests of all beneficial users. Those same framers of our constitution who were wise enough to put Article VIII into it also included the initiative process. They had a faith in the ability of Alaskans to make informed decisions when voting - a faith that evidently is not shared by this legislature. As the passage of SB 74 last year exemplifies, the legislature has the power to amend or completely negate a citizen-passed initiative after two years. Thus, it is within the legislature's power to correct any legitimate problems that might result from the initiative process. Clearly, the Alaska Constitution will not benefit from this tinkering nor will the wildlife of Alaska be "safer" if the initiative process is taken away from the citizens of Alaska.


Susan E. Schrader

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

Peter R. Buist
Box 71561
Fairbanks, AK 99707

February 23, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182


Dear Carl,

I enjoyed meeting with you in McGrath in early February. I **wish to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your introduction of HJR 56.** As you know I have spent a lot of time over the past few years working to get hunters and trappers to come together on this important issue that is common to both urban and rural hunters and trappers. It is an IMMEDIATE threat and I am most appreciative that you have risen to the occasion.

In 1996 we lost "same day airborne" because we were unprepared. In 1998, we won the wolf snare initiative, but it was terribly expensive. I do not believe it is fair to ask Alaska's hunters and trappers to keep coming up with hundreds of thousands of dollars every two years to fight these big Outside groups. The worst of it is that even when we work hard, raise the money and spend it on a campaign, WE DON'T GAIN ANYTHING! All we get is the status quo. That is not fair to Alaskans!

This effort that you have started is very much appreciated. It will be a tough fight, but we will win. Again, thank you very much for "taking the initiative!"

Yours truly,


Peter R. Buist

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: HJR 56
(H) Publish Date: 3/3/00

STATE OF ALASKA 2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Office of the Governor
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initiatives relating to wildlife Component Elections
 Sponsor Representative Morgan
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 21

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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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Prepared by: Gail Fenwick Phone 465-3935
 Division Division of Elections Date/Time 2/23/00 12:04 PM
 Approved by: Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer Date 02/23/2000
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Alaska State Legislature

SESSION

State Capitol Building, Suite 409

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Phone: 907-465-4527

Fax: 907-465-2197

Toll Free: 800-491-4527

E-mail: Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us

INTERIM

P.O. Box 243

Aniak, Alaska 99557

Phone: 907-675-4413



MEMBER

Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Health, Education & Social Services Committee

House Resources Committee

Special Committee on Fisheries

Representative Carl M. Morgan, Jr. District 36

SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 56 Constitutional Amendment Wildlife Initiative Process

This legislation removes wildlife management from the ballot initiative process in Alaska. The framers of our Constitution restricted the ballot initiative process in Article XI, Section 7 of the Alaska Constitution. Section 7 exempts certain subjects from the ballot and referendum process. I believe wildlife management is an appropriate subject for exemption.

Our wildlife interests are best managed in Alaska by Alaskans. Removing wildlife from the ballot and referendum process will ensure that wildlife decisions are made in Alaska based on sound science, prudent management, and in an open and fair process. The alternative is a repeat of the last two elections where special interest groups from the Lower 48, using emotion and political agendas, attacked Alaska's outstanding wildlife management system.

Alaska is not alone in this fight. In 1998, the citizens of Utah and Minnesota passed constitutional amendments to protect wildlife management and hunting in their states. Presently, there are constitutional amendments to protect wildlife management and traditional wildlife uses working their way through the state legislatures of Arizona, Idaho and North Dakota.

Legislative counsel has advised that the Legislature possesses the power to amend the Alaska Constitution subject to a vote of the people, but does not have the power to make sweeping revisions that radically alter the powers of governmental branches. Counsel believes HJR 56 amounts to an amendment of the Constitution, not a revision, and within the power of the Legislature.

Letters Received in Support of HJR 56

Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission	Harold Martin, Chair
Tanana Chiefs Conference,	Steve Ginnis, President,
Alaska Trappers Association,	Joe Mattie, Board Member
Alaska Trappers Association, South Central Chpt.	Allen Dubord, Chair
Alaska Outdoor Council.	Dick Bishop, Vice President
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life (CAWL)	Gabriel Sam, Co-Chair
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life (CAWL)	Ben Hopson, Jr. Co-Chair
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep	Wayne Heimer
Scientific Management of Alaska's	
Resource Treasures (SMART)	Patrick Wright, President
Peter R. Buist,	Fairbanks
Tom Lessard	Chugiak
Alex Whiting	Kotzebue
Alan and Brenda Jones	Fairbanks
Jim E. Gallagher	Anchorage
Carol Torsen	Anchorage
Joe & Candie Caraway	Beluga
Mike and Donne Fleagle	McGrath
Alaska Wildlife Society	Fairbanks
Tanana Tribal Council	Tanana
Rural Alaska Community	
Action Program, Inc	Anchorage



ALASKA NATIVE HARBOR SEAL COMMISSION

February 28, 2000

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Ricardo Lopez
Bristol Bay MMC

Daniel Alex
Cook Inlet MMC

Monica Riedel
Executive Director

Representative Carl Morgan
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA FAX: 1-907-465-2197

REFERENCE: IN SUPPORT OF HJR-56, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON WILDLIFE INITIATIVES

Dear Representative Morgan:

I feel that it's extremely important that we utilize all means to protect wildlife and wild areas from special interest groups outside Alaska in order to protect future generations' use of those wildlife resources. HJR-56 will protect those wildlife resources by preventing these special interest groups from using the initiative process to make wildlife policy in Alaska, policy that could be very detrimental to Alaska's subsistence users.

It has been proven over the years that Alaska's system of wildlife management has worked very well. ADF&G, along with the Board of Game and the state legislature, has ensured preservation of Alaska's wildlife for everyone to enjoy. ADF&G biologists have been trained in sound scientific methods and the professional management of Alaska's wildlife resources, which have served Alaska's people well. We do not need "Ballot Box Biology" as advocated by animal rights groups.

We should not have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend our traditional hunting and trapping rights at the ballot box every few years. HJR-56 would ensure that wildlife issues could no longer be a part of the initiative process, and therefore protected from the whims of animal rights groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in favor of HJR-56.

Sincerely,
Monica Riedel for HM
Harold Martin, Chairman, ANHSC

**TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.**

February 22, 2000
122 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 600
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897
PHONE 907/452-8251 • FAX 907/459-3850

Representative Carl Morgan
State Capitol Building, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Morgan:

The Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc would like to express its support for HJR 56, which would remove wildlife management issues from the ballot initiative process.

When wolves enter into a village not because they are lost, but because they are hungry, there is a definite problem in how the wildlife is being managed. If there were enough moose and caribou out there the wolves would not come so close to a community. In January the children go to school in the dark and go home in the dark. This is also the time the wolves go out on their nightly hunt for food.

This is no longer an issue for just putting food on the table, it is now an issue for the children's welfare and safety. To manage fish and game resources by ballot initiative is not a sound method for wildlife management. The resources should be managed through the direction that the Board of Game assigns to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

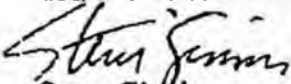
Through many of the public testimonies that were given by representatives from all over Alaska at the McGrath Rural Summit in McGrath, nobody spoke of totally eradicating the wolves. People spoke of how important the wolf is in their respective cultures. The problem is there are just too many wolves and not enough moose or caribou to feed them.

Because the terrain is so hilly and rough, it is difficult for the local trappers to successfully catch any wolves. The only way the wolf population can be controlled is by aerial hunts. An aggressive predator control program needs to be implemented.

Again, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc supports HJR 56, because Alaska's resources should not be managed by outside special interest groups. Rather they should be managed based upon sound scientific principles. Thank you for your advocacy on this issue of importance to interior Alaskans.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.


Steve Ginnis
President

FEB-28-UU MON 13:29

10-23-1995 3:00AM

FROM

FEB-26-00 SUN 04:33 PM

AK PUBLIC DEFENDER

FAX NO. 907 465 3247

P. 01

P. 03

P. 1

**ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 82177
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99708**

Feb. 23, 2000

Rep. Carl Morgan
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Morgan:

The Alaska Trappers Association has about 1200 members statewide. We are a group that supports humane and effective trapping and we stand up for trappers rights. Thus we are very happy that you have introduced House Joint Resolution 56 to finally stop the constant attacks by the Animal Rights groups that are trying to take over game management in Alaska.

As we saw in 1996, the well-funded groups like Friends of Animals can put a lot of money into an Alaskan campaign in a short period of time. And there is no truth in advertising. They ran ads on television that made people think that they were voting to outlaw AERIAL wolf hunting. It worked. The initiative to stop "same day airborne trapping was passed handily. They came back in 1998 to try to stop all wolf snaring and wearing wolf fur, but luckily trappers started the CAWL group and we were able to stop them.

But we do not have the money to keep fighting this battle every two years. That is why your bill is so important. We need to stop them. They can just use the BOG process like everyone else. They complain that this system does not work (for them) but I suggest that it DOES work. The fact that every goofy proposal they put in DOES NOT pass, is proof that our system works!

With your help, we will show them that you do not just circumvent the process and BUY Alaskan wildlife policy. Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Joe Mattie, Board Member
Alaska Trappers Association



South Central Chapter
of
ALASKA TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 201175
Anchorage, AK 99520-1175

February 25, 2000

Dear Representative Morgan,

On behalf of the South Central Chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association (SCCATA) I want you to know that I support your efforts to put wildlife issues off - limits to the ballot initiative process. The initiative process has proven to be no friend of the trapper in many other states. We don't have the financial resources to confront these professional protesters every time we turn around. We believe in leaving these things to the professionals and that the Board of Game process allows for ample public participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Allen Dubord'.

Allen Dubord
Chair SCCATA

COALITION FOR THE ALASKAN WAY OF LIFE
P.O. BOX 60954
FAIRBANKS, AK 99706

February 24, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Morgan:

RE: HJR 56

On behalf of our coalition, I want to thank you for your introduction of this important measure. Your resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to finally stop these animal rights groups from abusing Alaska's democratic game management system is an important first step in bringing sanity back to the process.

As you know, our group is extremely diverse. Beginning with the fight over Proposition 9 (Wolf Snaring) on the 1998 ballot, we were able to get a wide array of interests to come together to fight this common enemy. Urban and rural. Trapper and hunter. Village trappers and urban sport hunters. We have all agreed to put aside other differences and help fight this assault on our way of life. We are very appreciative of your efforts to solve the problem.

Do not hesitate to call on us. We stand with you in defense of Alaska's wildlife and peoples.

Sincerely,



Gabriel K. Sam, Co-Chair
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life

COALITION FOR THE ALASKAN WAY OF LIFE
P.O. BOX 60954
FAIRBANKS, AK 99706

February 26, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Morgan:

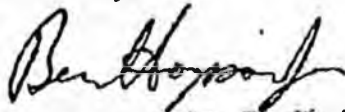
RE: HJR 56

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As you know, our group is extremely diverse. Beginning with the fight over Proposition 9 (Wolf Snaring) on the 1998 ballot, we were able to get a wide array of interests to come together to fight this common enemy. Urban and rural. Trapper and hunter. Village trappers and urban sport hunters. We have all agreed to put aside other differences and help fight this assault on our way of life. We are very appreciative of your efforts to solve the problem.

Do not hesitate to call on us. We stand with you in defense of Alaska's wildlife and peoples.

Sincerely,



Ben Hopson, Jr., Co-Chair
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life

Haugo Resolution
Introduced Delay



Hjr56

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Leland Spinkes, Jr.
Past President
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(662) 843-2015 (H)
(662) 843-3091 (FAX)

Clare Thompson
Box 9176, 29 Wain Road
Wildfire, Yukon Territory
Canada Y1A1A2
(867) 668-6564 (H/FAX)

Rep. Carl Morgan
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

February 28, 2000

Dear Rep. Morgan:

My name is Wayne Heimer. I am writing in support of House Joint Resolution 56 which would end wildlife management by ballot initiative. I favor this approach. Here's why.

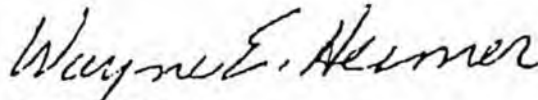
Beginning in 1971, I served in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 25.4 years, primarily in the areas of Dall sheep research and management. During the last five years of my career, I was thrust into the legislative and political arena by assignment to the Wildlife Conservation Division's now-extinct ANILCA team. Consequently, I suggest my exposure to legislation and politics may be beyond that of the average career biologist. I've "been through it all" with the Department of Fish and Game. During my career, I worked under every man that has ever been Governor of the State of Alaska, and I've never seen a Governor as intrusive into the management of Alaska's fish and wildlife as Governor Knowles. Also, I've never seen wildlife management as politicized or ineffective as Governor Knowles' micromanagement has made it.

After retiring, I was elected to the National Board of Directors for the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. The Foundation is a hunter-interest conservation organization dedicated to wild sheep conservation and hunting. The Foundation's members, chapters, and affiliates were actively involved in defeating the anti-snaring initiative in the last general election. While the Foundation is willing to engage in these conflicts as necessary to, as our motto states, "Put [or keep] sheep on the mountain," we are also interested in keeping hunters on the mountain. Clearly, abuse of the initiative process to lower the number of sheep or hunters on the mountains (which is how we interpreted the anti-snaring initiative,

primarily because of its extremist proponents) is contrary to our Foundation's goals.

Hence, I feel safe in saying that not only am I personally in favor of the intent of HJR 56, I have no doubt the 8,000 members of the National Foundation (which have raised approximately a third of a million dollars for sheep management in Alaska over the last three years) would also support the intent of this resolution.

Sincerely yours,



Wayne E. Heimer
1098 Chena Pump Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Scientific
Management of
Alaska's
Resource
Treasures

**PO Box 244001
Anchorage, AK
99524-4001**

***Founded in 1996 to
ensure protection of
the trust resources
through scientific
management of
Alaska's fish and
wildlife.***

Directors:
Patrick Wright
279-1340
Nick Steen
745-2739
Mark Keller
357-2520
Keith Bayha
694-4123
Frank DiPofi
344-6698



FEB 29 2000

February 26, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Moragan:

Re: HJR 56

On behalf of Scientific Management of Alaska's Resource Treasures (SMART), we want to thank you for your introduction of this important measure. Your resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to finally stop these extreme groups from abusing Alaska's democratic game management system is a significant first step in bringing sanity back to the process.

"Ballot Box Biology" is not the way to manage Alaska's natural resources! Alaska has an extensive open and public process by which to determine wildlife management policies and regulations. Alaskans should use this system rather than deciding these critical issues on the basis of emotion from 30-second sound bites.

Do not hesitate to call on us. We stand with you in defense of Alaska's wildlife in the reasonable and systematic management of time tested established methods.

Sincerely,


Patrick Wright
S.M.A.R.T. President

Dear Rep. Morgan,

February, 26 2000

My name is Tom Lessard and I live in Chugiak. I am sending this note to voice my support of HJR 56. I think it is good to add wildlife issues to the list in the Constitution of items that are not allowed to be placed on ballot initiatives. The animal rights/antis have severely hobbled consumptive users around the country by selling their emotional campaigns to city folks largely ignorant of the issues. We as trappers and hunters simply do not have the financial resources to repeatedly defend ourselves against these attempts to hog-tie consumptive users. I think these decisions are best left to the professional biologists and the Board of Game after looking at all sides of the issues. They don't call it fish and game for nothing. If the antis want to have wildlife viewing areas all to themselves, they've already got it in the big National Parks and such.

Thank You for Your Consideration,



Tom Lessard
21670 Snowflower Loop
Chugiak, AK 99567

• **Subject: In support of HJR 56**

Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2000 08:28:49 -0900

From: "Alex Whiting" <sheep@ptialaska.net>

To: <Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Morgan,

I want to thank you very much for introducing HJR 56. I have been waiting a long time trying to see such a bill introduced. I hope you are finding support for this bill and I will be writing Rep. Ogan, Rep. Bunde and Rep. Joule, all whom know my position when it comes to ballot box management, and express my support for this possible legislation. If there are any other legislators I should contact or any way I can help, please let me know.

Thank you very much and best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

Alex Whiting
Kotzebue, AK

Subject: HJR 56

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2000 20:30:40 -0900

From: "Alan & Brenda Jones" <acjones@mosquitonet.com>

To: <Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for introducing this legislation to make Fish and Game matters exempt from Ballot Initiatives. I feel strongly that the ballot initiative process is a good idea. It's just that it has no place in matters best handled by biologists and other Fish and Game experts. At present, a few mis-informed people can tell lies to people in the major population centers like Anchorage and Fairbanks and use emotions to get enough signatures to get an initiative on the ballot. Fish and Game issues are often charged with emotion and it is relatively easy to gather enough signatures from greenies to get the initiative on the ballot. This adversley affects the people who know better and the people who rely on a particular resource. Again I thank you!

Alan C. Jones
acjones@mosquitonet.com



Redi Electric, Inc.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR



6151 A Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99518 • Telephone (907) 561-2323 • Fax (907) 563-8467 or (907) 261-3299 • TIN #92-0048392

Date: 2-25-00

To: The Honorable Carl Morgan
State Representative

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Good afternoon Mr. Morgan,

I would like to express my support for your House Resolution Bill HJR 56.

Thank you,

Jim E. Gallagher
Direct 261-3237

Carol T. Torsen
1558 Thuja Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99507
ctorsen@alaska.net 907-344-5956

February 24, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA FAX: 1-907-465-2197

REFERENCE: IN SUPPORT OF HJR-56, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ON WILDLIFE INITIATIVES

Dear Representative Morgan:

Having grown up on Spruce Island, near Kodiak, I know what it's like to be dependent upon wildlife resources for food. I feel that it's extremely important that we utilize all means to protect wildlife and wild areas from special interest groups outside Alaska in order to protect future generations' use of those wildlife resources. HJR-56 will protect those wildlife resources by preventing these special interest groups from using the initiative process to make wildlife policy in Alaska, policy that could be very detrimental to Alaska's subsistence users.

It has been proven over the years that Alaska's system of wildlife management has worked very well. ADF&G, along with the Board of Game and the state legislature, has ensured preservation of Alaska's wildlife for everyone to enjoy. ADF&G biologists have been trained in sound scientific methods and the professional management of Alaska's wildlife resources, which have served Alaska's people well. We do not need "Ballot Box Biology" as advocated by animal rights groups.

We should not have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend our traditional hunting and trapping rights at the ballot box every few years. HJR-56 would ensure that wildlife issues could no longer be a part of the initiative process, and therefore protected from the whims of animal rights groups.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in favor of HJR-56.

Sincerely,



Carol Torsen

Joe & Candie Caraway
Beluga River
Beluga, Alaska 99516

February 28, 2000

Rep. Carl Morgan
House District 36
Aniak, AK

Dear Carl,

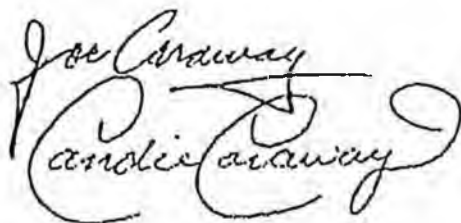
The State of Alaska has been under attack by outside animal rights groups for too long. The "anti" interest groups have attempted to dictate how we manage our renewable fish and wildlife resources. Our governor seems all too interested in catering to these uninformed, non-Alaskan voices.

Because of this unhealthy perspective that is being fostered by our administration, it is now necessary to take steps to protect our Alaskan way of life and many Alaskan traditions. Your House Joint Resolution No. 56 is just the remedy!

The State of Alaska has a fish and wildlife management system in place that allows for public input at every level. When it is allowed to function without political pressure--it is an incredible process. One, we should all be involved in and proud of as Alaskans. Our current administration is constantly thwarting the decisions of the Board of Game; and powerful money has made it's way to our state to fight Alaskans for the consumptive use of our resources. We must recognize that allowing issues dealing with fish and wildlife management to be voted on by all residents of the state is inappropriate. Management can not and should not be dealt with on an emotional level. Too often the issue is misrepresented to the uninvolved and uneducated voter. Often these same voters, when voting to stop the use of a wildlife resource feel they are paying homage, and are "doing their part". Users of Alaska resources do not have the time or monies to dispute each issue as it is comes before us--election after election. Carl, for these reasons, and many others not mentioned, your bill is so badly needed.

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of Alaska's renewable resources; and we pray for your success.

Most sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Joe Caraway and Candie Caraway. The signature for Joe Caraway is written above the signature for Candie Caraway.

Mike and Donne Fleagle
P.O. Box 33
McGrath, Alaska 99627
February 28, 2000

Representative Carl Morgan
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Support of HJR-56

Dear Representative Morgan:

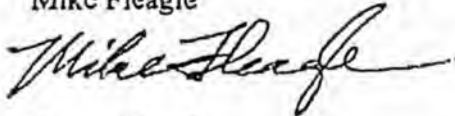
We strongly support and urge passage of HJR-56, the bill that would allow a vote for a constitutional amendment that would eliminate wildlife issues from ballot initiative.

We have seen the fine system of game management in Alaska eroded by the ballot initiative process, with the passage of the same-day-airborne hunting restrictions, and the more recent attempt to eliminate snares as a tool for harvesting wolves. We believe that wildlife management should be left to the professionals who are given the charge to do this, mainly the Alaska Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game. The ballot initiative process precludes any biological information that might be present, and instead uses money and emotion to eliminate legal methods and means of harvesting. We have observed misleading and outright false statements made in advertisements supporting the initiative in question.

Our system of game management in Alaska is one of the finest in the country. It allows for the utmost public participation, even using a board of public citizens to enact regulation. All proposed regulation changes are available for public review before action by the board. A considerable amount of time is given at each board meeting to hear public testimony. Let us not see the continued erosion and corruption of this successful system, in fact, let us stop it now. Passage of HJR-56 does just that.

Sincerely,

Mike Fleagle



Donne Fleagle



**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
97-112-BOG**

Relating to the management of Alaska's fish and game resources.

WHEREAS, since statehood, the management of Alaska's fish and game resources have been responsibly managed according to a system developed by the Alaska Legislature, namely, the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, and more recently, the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game, and

WHEREAS, the clear intent of this process of management through a citizen's board distinct from the administrative and the legislative branches of state government was to insulate management decisions from undue political influence which could be detrimental to Alaska's fish and game resources, and

WHEREAS, it is also the clear intent to have the best scientific and historical data and information available to the Boards of Fisheries and Game when deciding management issues, and

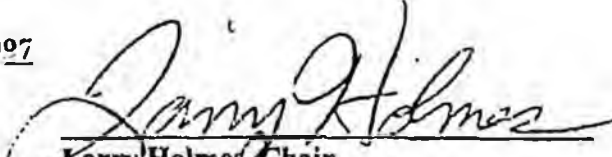
WHEREAS, management of Alaska's fish and game resources through the ballot initiative process does not allow for the consideration of this information, and may cause decisions to be made which could be detrimental to Alaska's fish and game resources,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Game does not endorse the initiative process for management of Alaska's fish and game resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Board of Game would encourage the Alaska Legislature to place before the voters a constitutional amendment which would prohibit management of Alaska's fish and game resources through the ballot initiative process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Chairs of the Senate and House Resources Committees.

ADOPTED DATE: October 30, 1997
Nome, Alaska


Larry Holmes, Chair
Alaska Board of Game

VOTE: 6-0-1

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION #98-120-BOG**

Relating to ballot initiative banning use of snares for harvesting wolves.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Game recognizes that wolves are an important resource valued by Alaska residents, both socially and economically, and that the elimination of snares as a method of harvest would lead to economic and personal hardship for those dependent on trapping for their livelihood or recreation, and

WHEREAS, the harvest of wolves is a biologically sound practice that plays an important role in the management of other species, especially ungulates, and traps and snares are important cost-effective methods for balancing predator and prey. Snares, when properly deployed, are among the most efficient, humane, and selective methods of wolf harvest, and

WHEREAS, the group that is attempting to bring this issue to the voters has apparently submitted enough signatures to ensure a place on the ballot in 1998, with the intent to ban the use of snares to harvest wolves, and to criminalize the possession, sale, and purchase of wolves that have been snared, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game found (98-BOG-119) that information used by the group is not representative of common trapping practices, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game has a record of integrating informed public debate with scientific data and historical records to develop wildlife management strategies, and the use of ballot initiatives to decide management issues circumvents this process, and

WHEREAS, passage of this initiative would have significant adverse social, economic, and wildlife management implications, and

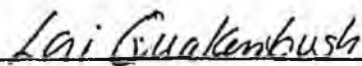
WHEREAS, the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game is constitutionally and statutorily mandated to manage Alaska's wildlife, including wolves, according to the sustained yield principle,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Game cannot support this proposed ballot initiative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Game urges Governor Knowles and Commissioner Rue to issue a detailed position statement on the impacts that this initiative would have on rural economics and wildlife management in Alaska, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Game recognizes the right of Department personnel and individual Board members to speak freely as individuals on this issue, and encourages them to do so.

ADOPTED DATE: March 26, 1998
Fairbanks, Alaska



Lori Quakenbush, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

Tanana Tribal Council
PO Box 130
Tanana, AK 99777
Phone: (907) 366-7170
Fax: (907) 366-7195

MAR 03 2000

February 29, 2000

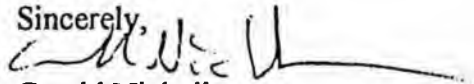
Representative Carl Morgan, District 36
State Capital, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99802-1182

Re: Supporting HJR 56

Dear Representative Morgan

On behalf of the Tanana Tribal Council and the tribal membership we express our support for HJR 56. Alaskans have already felt the adverse effects from ballot box initiatives twice and they are a ban on wolf snaring, which failed, and the English only initiative that was passed by Alaskan voters. The ballot box initiatives (Ballot Box Biology) is being used to exploit Alaska's laws for the Benefit of Righteous Groups, outside of Alaska, who have no other intention but to change the way Alaskan natives have been living for the last hundred thousand years. These animal rights groups have a lot of money and use emotional campaigns and political agendas to win by Alaska's vote. These animal rights groups have already express their desire to change the Alaskan native so that it would be easier to assimilate them into the Alaska mainstream society. They are doing this because they think that it would solve the urban and rural differences. I believe Alaskans should handle Alaska's problems and this State should not be influence from outside by using ballot box biology on wildlife to assimilate Alaska's natives into a place that is not natural to them. I also believe that Alaskan natives are not going to change the way righteous groups want them to change and that no outside interest groups should influence other peoples lives adversely. Any questions or concerns call or write. Thank you

Sincerely,



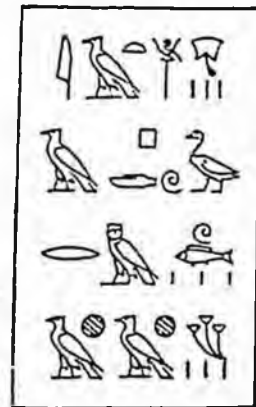
Gerald Nicholia
Realty/Wildlife and Parks

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER

P. O. Box 72962
Fairbanks, AK 99707-2962
February 29, 2000

MAR 03 2000



Representative Bill Hudson
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hudson:

I am pleased to transmit the enclosed *Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society Position Statement on Wildlife Management by Ballot Initiative*. The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society, a professional organization representing approximately 300 wildlife biologists in Alaska, developed the referenced document in fall 1998 in response to a ballot initiative to ban snaring of wolves. In general, the Alaska Chapter finds ballot initiatives to be very poor tools for managing wildlife. The Alaska Chapter distributed the enclosed Position Statement to various media outlets immediately prior to the 1998 election but failed to get significant coverage.

The Alaska Chapter believes that you and your committee may find the suggestions in our Position Statement useful during your deliberations on HJR 56. We encourage you to provide copies of our Position Statement to members of the Resources Committee so that they may give the issues discussed in the Position Statement full consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger A. Post".

Roger A. Post
President

Enclosure

cc (w/ enclosure):

Representative Bev Masek, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
Representative Carl Morgan, Sponsor, HJR 56

THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
POSITION STATEMENT
ON
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BY BALLOT INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Society is an international professional organization of wildlife researchers, managers, and enforcement personnel dedicated to the sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend. The Alaska Chapter is an affiliate organization of over 300 wildlife professionals living and working in Alaska. Most Chapter members are wildlife biologists for state, federal, private, or academic institutions.

The Alaska Chapter adopts position statements on important wildlife management issues in the state. Our purpose in this resolution is to examine the use of ballot initiatives to manage wildlife in Alaska and to recommend an appropriate course of action for Alaskans to take in managing wildlife.

BACKGROUND

Alaska is fortunate in that there is an established democratic process by which the direction for wildlife management in the state is deliberated and decided. That process is the system of local advisory committees and the governor-appointed Board of Game, which has been statutorily delegated the responsibility by the Alaska Legislature. The public is involved at all stages of this regulatory process. In recent years, there has been an increasing tendency for wildlife management decision-making to be taken from the Board of Game and made by the Legislature or by ballot initiatives. Neither of these methods utilizes a deliberative process with both professional biological advice and public input. In 1996 the Alaska Chapter passed a resolution on legislating wildlife management in Alaska. In the following position statement, the Chapter discusses the use of ballot initiatives.

Ballot initiatives addressing wildlife management have become more frequent in Alaska and other states as various interest groups have been unsuccessful using the existing management structures to influence wildlife management decisions according to their own political agenda. The ballot initiative method was used in Alaska in 1996 when an initiative to eliminate same-day airborne hunting of wolves was passed. Now, an initiative to ban snaring of wolves is on the 1998 ballot.

FINDINGS

Wildlife in Alaska and the other 49 states enjoys a unique legal status with distinctive legal principles grounded in the common law of public trust doctrine. Under this concept, wildlife is not legal property and therefore cannot be owned by anyone so long as it remains in its natural condition. The state has a legal duty to manage wildlife for the benefit of its citizens. No state is permitted to abrogate this duty. The state must ensure that no single use interferes with the equality of opportunity for access to wildlife for public trust uses. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are recognized public trust uses of the wildlife resource. The state has primary responsibility for determining the means by which wildlife may be reduced to possession.

Under recent Alaska Supreme Court rulings (*Pullen vs. Ulmer* 1996, *McDowell vs. Alaska* 1989, *Owsichek vs. Alaska* 1988, and *CWC Fisheries vs. Bunker* 1988), the concept of public trust duty has come to be understood to lie with the Alaska Legislature. The Board of Game, with technical assistance from the Department of Fish and Game, has been delegated the duty, by the Legislature, to manage and allocate the wildlife resource under the strictures of public trust. There is reason to believe that, because the

Subject: Wolf Control

March 7,2000

My family and I have farmed in the Copper River Basin for the past 16 years. Until the last 3 years we have not had any trouble with wolves. 3 winters ago, we saw wolves at 3 different occasions in our hay fields next to the barn. We ran them off into the woods. That winter a pack of 6 wolves came in about 4 in the morning and attempted to enter the corral. At that time we had 18 five month old steer calves we were raising in the corral. My wife and I stood guard outside the pens until it got light and they moved off toward the river. Last winter I dispatched a large male trying to enter the pens. This winter I shot and killed another big male trying to get into the corral. You could say that we are just trying to maintain our current cattle population. Several neighbors have lost dogs and small livestock to wolves.

Sincerely yours;

John Wenger
John Wenger