

HJR

56

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

MAR 03 2000

February 29, 2000

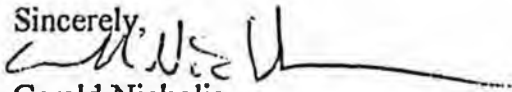
Representative Carl Morgan, District 36
State Capital, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99802-1182

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

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

March 8, 2000

Honorable Representative Carl Morgan
405 State Capital Bldg
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1182
VIA FAX MAIL (907)-465-2197

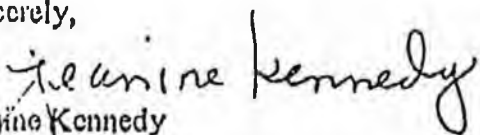
Reference: HJR 56

Dear Representative Morgan:

This is to advise you that Rural Alaska Community Action Program supports the passage of HJR 56 as the means to prevent wildlife management in Alaska through the ballot box. HJR 56 will enable the application of sound wildlife management functions to manage wildlife in Alaska rather than management through popular vote.

RurAL CAP was instrumental in the winter of 1998 in the formation of the Coalition for Alaska Way of Life as an organization to resist the effort of the outside animal rights groups to prohibit and make it illegal the use of wolf products caught by snares. Once organized CAWL successfully defended the rights of the trappers to continue their means to make a living in Alaska. Seventy percent (70%) of the trappers are Interior's Indigenous people and their way of life needs protection. HJR 56 will protect their customary and traditional lifestyle. There is bipartisan support on your bill and RurAL CAP is more than willing to be one of the supporters. Thank you and keep up the good works.

Sincerely,


Jeanine Kennedy
Executive Director
Rural Alaska Community Action Program

Cc: Donne Fleagle, Chair RurAL CAP
Jonathon Soloman, Chair, RurAL CAP Subsistence Committee
Carl Jack, Subsistence Director



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

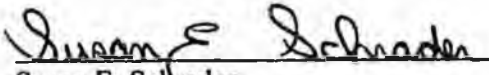
HJR 56 ~ Constitutional Amendment: Wildlife Initiatives

TO: House Judiciary Committee Members
FROM: Susan Schrader, Conservation Advocate
DATE: March 8, 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

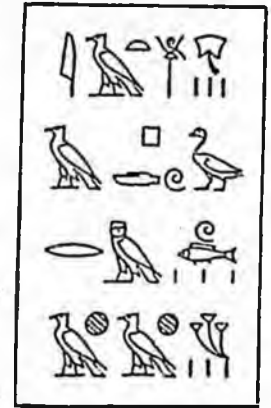
Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

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, *Owsichuk 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

Legislature cannot divest itself of its trust responsibility, allocation and management decisions cannot be delegated to a decision-making process where the Legislature retains no finality on approval; this is the case with ballot initiatives. The argument that wildlife management is exempted from ballot initiatives has yet to be determined by a higher court, but its potential should cause citizens to want clarification before casting their votes.

While we recognize that ballot initiatives are part of a participatory democratic process, it is clear they do not meet the needs of Alaskans to fully deliberate the complexities of harvest methods and means or allocations. Managing wildlife and its use in Alaska is a very complex process that must simultaneously consider biology, culture, and economics. Ballot initiatives bypass the checks and balances of deliberation and possible changes to regulations present in the existing public processes. In ballot initiatives, open debate is usually reduced to sound bites in the media by opposing sides and results in a good deal of misinformation. It is not possible to adequately prepare the voting public to make an informed decision in such a polarized atmosphere.

The current and usual process for dealing with wildlife management issues in Alaska consists of local advisory committees and the governor-appointed Board of Game. These organizations carry out knowledgeable deliberation of proposals submitted by the public, the Department of Fish and Game, and other organizations on a wide variety of issues. Their deliberations and decisions are based on their education from extensive public testimony, presentation from technical experts, and their own specific knowledge of wildlife issues. Although it may occasionally have been affected by politics or was sometimes less responsive to minority views than desirable, the Board of Game system has served Alaskans well and is regarded as a model of democratic wildlife management in the country.

Finally, the role federal subsistence management currently plays with regards to the initiative process must be considered. State statutes, whether passed by legislative action or ballot initiative, cannot countenand federal directives for subsistence management of wildlife on federal lands as provided in the Alaska National Interst Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. While state statutes apply to all lands in Alaska, they can be preempted by federal subsistence regulations on federal lands (approximately 60% of the land area in the state). The Federal Subsistence Board regulates subsistence harvest of fish and game on federal lands pursuant to ANILCA. Overtly restrictive measures, such as a proposed ban on the use of snares for wolves, would almost certainly have strong opposition from qualified subsistence users in rural Alaska, and the Federal Subsistence Board would likely reflect their wishes.

RECOMMENDATION

Therefore, The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society recommends that:

- Wildlife management in Alaska should continue to be guided by the Board of Game system as the most appropriate mechanism to meet the needs of Alaskans and fulfill the requirements of public trust doctrine.
- The Attorney General of Alaska, under direction by the Governor and Legislature, should investigate the legality of ballot initiatives as applied to wildlife management in Alaska.
- The Board of Game, under direction by the Governor and Legislature and with assistance from an *ad hoc* citizen advisory panel, should explore ways of ensuring that the advisory committee and board processes continue to be open and responsive to minority opinion or alternative views of wildlife management and, if necessary, should suggest improvements to these processes.

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

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



MEMBER

Community & Regional Affairs Committee
Health, Education & Social Services Committee
House Resources Committee
Special Committee on Fisheries

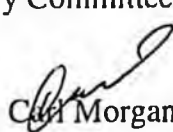
INTERIM

P.O. Box 243
Aniak, Alaska 99557
Phone: 907-675-4413

Representative Carl M. Morgan, Jr. District 36

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Pete Kott, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

From: Representative  Morgan, Co-Chair

Date: March 1, 2000

Subject: House Joint Resolution 56

I respectfully request that you schedule HJR 56 for a hearing in your committee at your earliest convenience. The bill was heard in, and unanimously passed out of House Resources Committee on March 1. There were no amendments suggested, proposed or discussed.

Successful passage of this bill is of paramount importance to Alaska. My Sponsor Statement (enclosed) covers the rationale for the bill, but I want to further emphasize that this bill is our best opportunity to stop "ballot box biology." Alaska simply can not allow its wildlife to be managed by the political agendas of powerful Outside animal rights and anti-consumptive use groups.

I also want you to know that most public testimony in House Resources was supportive of this legislation. And, I have received over 800 messages of support to not use the initiative process in this way in Alaska.

In addition to my Sponsor Statement, I am attaching several recent letters of support and the fiscal note.

I thank you for your prompt consideration of this request. If you have questions on HJR 56, please call me at 465-4527.

Enclosures

Alaska State Legislature

SESSION

State Capitol Building, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone: 907-465-4527
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E-mail: Representative_Carl_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us

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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.

of a borough or city of the first class shall provide the procedure for the preparation and adoption or rejection of the charter. All charters, or parts or amendments of charters, shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the borough or city, and shall become effective if approved by a majority of those who vote on the specific question.

SECTION 10. EXTENDED HOME RULE. The legislature may extend home rule to other boroughs and cities.

SECTION 11. HOME RULE POWERS. A home rule borough or city may exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or by charter.

SECTION 12. BOUNDARIES. A local boundary commission or board shall be established by law in the executive branch of the state government. The commission or board may consider any proposed local government boundary change. It may present proposed changes to the legislature during the first ten days of any regular session. The change shall become effective forty-five days after presentation or at the end of the session, whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of the members of each house. The commission or board, subject to law, may establish procedures whereby boundaries may be adjusted by local action.

SECTION 13. AGREEMENTS; TRANSFER OF POWERS. Agreements, including those for cooperative or joint administration of any functions or powers, may be made by any local government with any other local government, with the State, or with the United States, unless otherwise provided by law or charter. A city may transfer to the borough in which it is located any of its powers or functions unless prohibited by law or charter, and may in like manner revoke the transfer.

SECTION 14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY. An agency shall be established by law in the executive branch of the state government to advise and assist local governments. It shall review their activities, collect and publish local government information, and perform other duties prescribed by law.

SECTION 15. SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS. Special service districts existing at the time a borough is organized shall be integrated with the government of the borough as provided by law.

ARTICLE XI. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL.

SECTION 1. INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM. The people may propose and enact laws by the initiative, and approve or reject acts of the legislature by the referendum.

SECTION 2. APPLICATION. An initiative or referendum is proposed by an application containing the bill to be initiated or the act to be referred. The application shall be signed by not less than one hundred qualified voters as sponsors, and shall be filed with the lieutenant governor. If he finds it in proper form he shall so certify. Denial of certification shall be subject to judicial review.

SECTION 3. PETITION. After certification of the application, a petition containing a summary of the subject matter shall be prepared by the lieutenant governor for circulation by the sponsors. If signed by qualified voters, equal in number to ten per cent of those who voted in the preceding general election and resident in at least two-thirds of the election districts of the State, it may be filed with the lieutenant governor.

SECTION 4. INITIATIVE ELECTION. An initiative petition may be filed at any time. The lieutenant governor shall prepare a ballot title

and proposition summarizing the proposed law, and shall place them on the ballot for the first statewide election held more than one hundred-twenty days after adjournment of the legislative session following the filing. If, before the election, substantially the same measure has been enacted, the petition is void.

SECTION 5. REFERENDUM ELECTION. A referendum petition may be filed only within ninety days after adjournment of the legislative session at which the act was passed. The lieutenant governor shall prepare a ballot title and proposition summarizing the act and shall place them on the ballot for the first statewide election held more than one hundred-eighty days after adjournment of that session.

SECTION 6. ENACTMENT. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition favor its adoption, the initiated measure is enacted. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition favor the rejection of an act referred, it is rejected. The lieutenant governor shall certify the election returns. An initiated law becomes effective ninety days after certification, is not subject to veto, and may not be repealed by the legislature within two years of its effective date. It may be amended at any time. An act rejected by referendum is void thirty days after certification. Additional procedures for the initiative and referendum may be prescribed by law.

SECTION 7. RESTRICTIONS. The initiative shall not be used to dedicate revenues, make or repeal appropriations, create courts, define the jurisdiction of courts or prescribe their rules, or enact local or special legislation. The referendum shall not be applied to dedications of revenue, to appropriations, to local or special legislation, or to laws necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

SECTION 8. RECALL. All elected public officials in the State, except judicial officers, are subject to recall by the voters of the State or political

subdivision from which elected. Procedures and grounds for recall shall be prescribed by the legislature.

ARTICLE XII. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

SECTION 1. STATE BOUNDARIES. The State of Alaska shall consist of all the territory, together with the territorial waters appurtenant thereto, included in the Territory of Alaska upon the date of ratification of this constitution by the people of Alaska.

SECTION 2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. The State and its political subdivisions may cooperate with the United States and its territories, and with other states and their political subdivisions on matters of common interest. The respective legislative bodies may make appropriations for this purpose.

SECTION 3. OFFICE OF PROFIT. Service in the armed forces of the United States or of the State is not an office or position of profit as the term is used in this constitution.

SECTION 4. DISQUALIFICATION FOR DISLOYALTY. No person who advocates, or who aids or belongs to any party or organization or association which advocates, the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States or of the State shall be qualified to hold any public office of trust or profit under this constitution.

SECTION 5. OATH OF OFFICE. All public officers, before entering upon the duties of their offices, shall take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as to the best

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR56

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 Fenum
 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

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 For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

Letters Received in Support of HJR 56

Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission
Tanana Chiefs Conference,
Alaska Trappers Association,
Alaska Trappers Association, South Central Chpt.
Alaska Outdoor Council.
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life (CAWL)
Coalition for the Alaskan Way of Life (CAWL)
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
Scientific Management of Alaska's
Resource Treasures (SMART)

Peter R. Buist,
Tom Lessard
Alex Whiting
Alan and Brenda Jones
Jim E. Gallagher
Carol Torsen
Joe & Candie Caraway
Mike and Donne Fleagle

Harold Martin, Chair
Steve Ginnis, President,
Joe Mattie, Board Member
Allen Dubord, Chair
Dick Bishop, Vice President
Gabriel Sam, Co-Chair
Ben Hopson, Jr. Co-Chair
Wayne Heimer

Patrick Wright, President
Fairbanks
Chugiak
Kotzebue
Fairbanks
Anchorage
Anchorage
Beluga
McGrath



ALASKA NATIVE HARBOR SEAL COMMISSION

February 28, 2000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harold Martin
Chair
Southeast Region

Mitch Simeonoff
Vice-Chair
Kodiak Region

William Elvsaas
Secretary
Cook Inlet Region

Mark Snigaroff
Aleutian/Pribilof

Norman Vlasoff
Chugach Region

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.

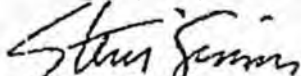
Through many of the public testimonies that were given by representatives from all over Alaska at the McGrath Rural Summit in McGrath, nobody spoke of totally eradicating the wolves. People spoke of how important the wolf is in their respective cultures. The problem is there are just too many wolves 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

10-23-1995 3:00AM

FROM

FEB-26-00 SUN 04:33 PM

AK PUBLIC DEFENDER

FAX NO. 907 465 3247

P. 01

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:

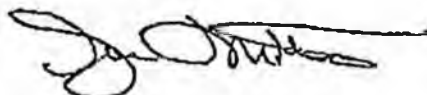
The Alaska Trappers Association has about 1200 members statewide. We are a group that supports humane and effective trapping and we stand up for trappers rights. Thus we are very happy that you have introduced House Joint Resolution 56 to finally stop the constant attacks by the Animal Rights groups 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, appearing to read 'Allen Dubord'.

Allen Dubord
Chair SCCATA



Alaska Outdoor Council

PO Box 73902
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3902
TEL/FAX: (907) 455-4AOC (4262)
e-mail: outdoor@polamet.com
web: www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

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Palmer

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Soldotna

Fund Trustee
Byron Haley
Fairbanks

*Executive
Director*
Lasse 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

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabriel K. Sam". To the right of the signature is a circular stamp or mark.

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:

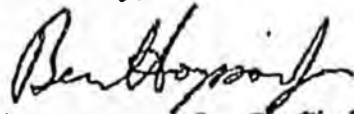
RE: HJR 56

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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



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- Ted Schulte**
President
5554 180th St.
Sibley, IA 51249
(712) 754-3729 (H)
(712) 754-3195 (FAX)
(712) 754-3070 (FAX)
- David Bull**
First Vice-President
4941 Comanche
Pocahontas, ID 83204
(208) 332-3294 (H)
(208) 232-6095 (H)
(208) 232-6720 (FAX)
- Royce "Woody" Wood**
Second Vice-President
4245 Piedmont Court
North Las Vegas, NV 89115
(702) 643-2076 (H)
(702) 643-1070 (H)
(702) 643-7800 (FAX)
- Matz Wolfe**
Secretary
P.O. Box 309
Kailua, AK 99510-0309
(907) 262-7034 (H/FAX)
- Mike Raumann**
Treasurer
7346 W. 31st Hwy
Alameda, CA 94003-1637
(305) 940-8840 (H)
(305) 940-8659 (FAX)
- Stanley M. Boots**
7810 Colby Rd.
Baldwinville, NY 13027
(315) 671-0010 (H)
(315) 638-0071 (FAX)
- Virginia Fishner**
5025 N. Tomlik St.
Las Vegas, NV 89129-4735
(702) 645-3506 (H)
(702) 615-4337 (FAX)
- Wayne Heimer**
1004 Celia Pump Rd.
Litchfield, AK 99709
(907) 457-0847
wheimer@fnaaws.net
- Jeff Reynolds**
P.O. Box 146
Douglas, WI 52633-0146
(307) 350-3693 (H)
(307) 350-3263 (FAX)
- Leland Speakes, Jr.**
Past President
P.O. Box 1073
Cleveland, MS 38933
(662) 843-2772 (H)
(662) 843-2015 (H)
(662) 843-3091 (FAX)
- Girt Thompson**
Box 9176, 29 Wain Road
Wainwright, Yukon Territory
Canada Y1A4A2
(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.

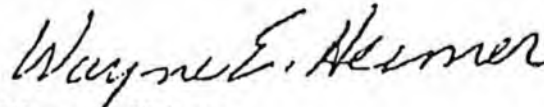
Beginning in 1971, I served in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 25.4 years, primarily in the areas of Dall sheep research and management. During the last five years of my career, I was thrust into the legislative and political arena by assignment to the Wildlife Conservation Division's now-extinct 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' micromangement 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



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

Peter R. Buist
Box 71561
Fairbanks, AK 99707

February 23, 2000

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

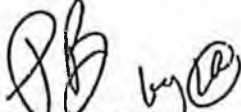
Dear Carl,

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,

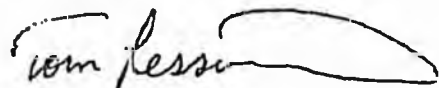

Peter R. Buist

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

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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

"WE STAY REDI • ER THAN MOST GET"

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 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,

Joe Caraway
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:

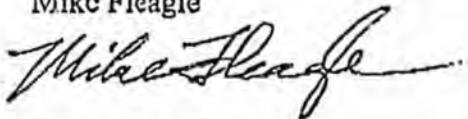
We strongly support and urge passage of HJR-56, the bill that would allow a vote for a constitutional amendment that would eliminate wildlife issues from ballot initiative.

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

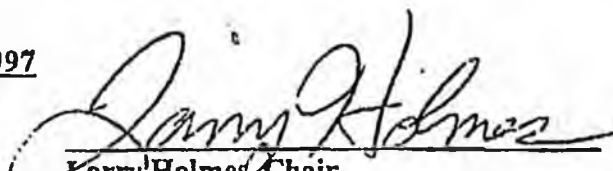
WHEREAS, management of Alaska's fish and game resources through the ballot initiative process does not allow for the consideration of this information, and may cause decisions to be made which could be detrimental to Alaska's fish and game resources,

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

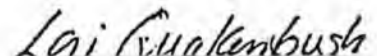
WHEREAS, the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game is constitutionally and statutorily mandated to manage Alaska's wildlife, including wolves, according to the sustained yield principle,

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