

Confirm:

Bd. of

Game

3/24/99



Official Business

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford  
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor  
Senator Lyda Green  
Senator Pete Kelly  
Senator Jerry Mackie  
Senator Sean Parnell  
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 24, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce  
President of the Senate  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

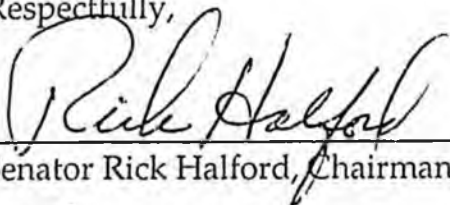
Dear Madam President,

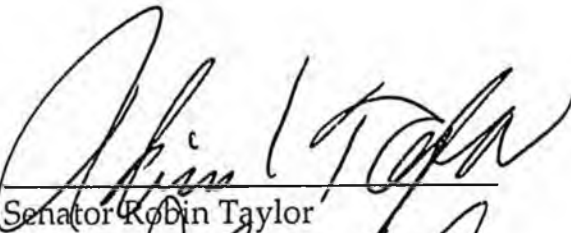
In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

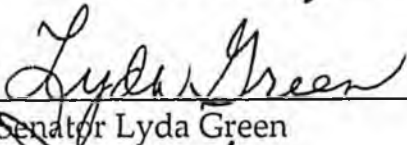
**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:**

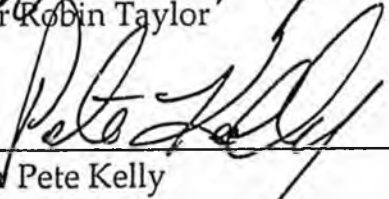
Greg Streveler - Gustavus

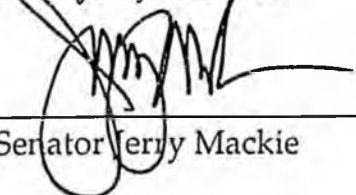
Respectfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

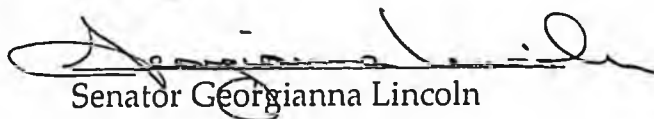
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Robin Taylor

  
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Senator Lyda Green

  
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Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:**

Greg Roczicka - Bethel

Respectfully,

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Robin Taylor

Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Sean Parnell

Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol  
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March 24, 1999

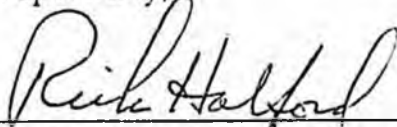
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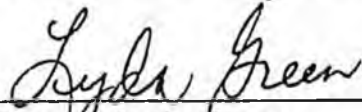
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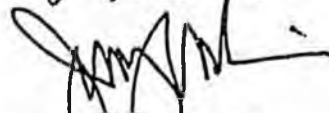
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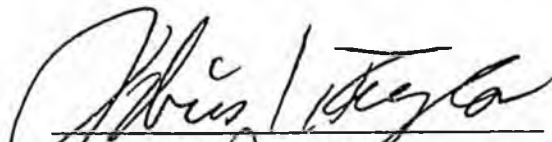
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:  
Mike Fleagle - McGrath

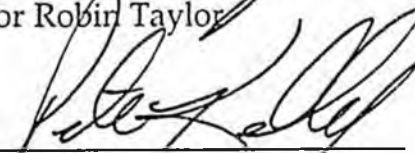
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman


  
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Senator Lyda Green

  
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Senator Jerry Mackie

  
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Senator Pete Kelly

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Senator Sean Parnell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Georgianna Lincoln



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature  
Senate  
Office of the Secretary

STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3701  
FAX: 465-2832

February 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Halford, Chair  
Resources Committee

FROM: Nancy Quinto <sup>W</sup>  
Secretary of the Senate

SUBJECT: Governor's Confirmations

Pursuant to AS 39.05.080, President Pearce has referred the following names for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

**Board of Game**

Greg Roczicka, Bethel  
Appointed: 02/23/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

Mike Fleagle - McGrath  
Appointed: 10/20/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

Greg Streveler - Gustavus  
Appointed: 10/20/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

NQ/kw  
Resumes attached

## RESUME'

**GREG ROCZICKA**  
**PO BOX 513, BETHEL, AK. 99559**  
**P/FAX (907)-543-2903**

### WORK HISTORY

**1997-Present:** Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee, PO Box 300, Bethel, AK. 99559, Ph. 543-3300, and self.  
Part-time sales and related fund raising activities for non-profit organization sponsoring annual sled dog race from Bethel to Aniak and back. Gather/cut/deliver firewood, general handyman/construction projects and housekeeping.

**1988-97:** Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Inc.  
PO Box 219, Bethel, AK. 99559; P/Fax (907) 543-3521/3596  
(1988-90, Resource Dept. dba Nunam Kitlutsisti, Protectors of the Land Inc.)

Worked within various capacities/titles depending on need and availability, which have included: Resource Specialist, Rights Protection Assistant, Coastal Zone Mgmt. Coordinator (CZM), and Director of Natural Resource Dept. Primary activities involved: serving as a liaison between tribal, state and federal governments; review, response and generation of technical/regulatory documents; identification and solicitation of project funding sources, including fiscal oversight; overall focus to perpetuate integrity of renewable resources and subsistence way of life.

**1975-95:** Intermittent crewman in seasonal commercial fishing operations.

**1987-88:** Lower Kuskokwim School District and Personal Projects  
Worked as seasonal maintenance mechanic and substitute teacher while building house for family in Kwethluk, AK.

**1980-87:** City of Bethel, Alaska

1984-87, Coastal Zone Mgmt. Planner implementing functional and technical aspects of City's CZM program; coordination and hands-on site supervision of various community enhancement projects.

1983-84, Coordinated Alcohol Safety Action Program, maintaining networking system between Courts, treatment agencies, and regional/village counseling programs; diagnostic assessments, placement and follow-up of clientele; generation of alcohol related crime statistics; fiscal oversight.

1980-83, Supervisor of 24-hour detoxification facility; maintained staff of 15 in emergency care of up to 5,000 clients annually; provide Emergency Medical Service training to staff; generate agency statistics; fiscal oversight.

**1977-79:** Varied employers. Mixture of temporary construction jobs, commercial fishing, cab driving, etc. while attending UAF-Kuskokwim community college in Bethel.

**1976:** Six months providing food, shelter, etc. for self and dog, 70 river miles from nearest community.

**1975-76:** Northern Commercial Co., Bethel, AK.

Perform general labor/clerical duties, maintaining daily business at bulk fuel storage, sales and delivery facility.

**1974-75:** Bethel Development Corporation

Shift maintenance for front office operations of 30 room hotel.

**1973-74:** Bethel Social Services

Teen Center Manager, working after school and weekends with community services director implementing City's teen recreation program, including recruitment and supervision of 6-10 teen employees.

**1971-73:** Yellow and Rabbit Cab Co's.

Work rotating dispatch shifts after school and weekends.

Greg Roczicka resume' cont'd

**EDUCATION**

- 1977-79 University of Alaska, Fairbanks/Kuskokwim Community College, Bethel, AK  
60+ credit hours majoring in Land/Resource Management. (LRM program discontinued at KuCC prior to fulfillment of degree requirements.)  
1970-74 Bethel Regional High School, Bethel, AK  
1964-69 Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota  
1963-64 Wanblee Elementary, Wanblee, South Dakota  
1962-63 Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown, Minnesota

**SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS**

- 1/81 State of Alaska Certification: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) I.  
4/81 Communications Skills Training  
5/81 Substance Abuse Counseling I and Personnel Management Training  
10/81 American Red Cross Instructors Certification for CPR and Basic First Aid  
6/82 Increasing Supervisory Skills and Short Term Client Counseling  
9/82 Management Information Systems  
10/82 EMT Recertification/Refresher Course  
11/82 Practical Management of Assaultive Clients  
5/83 Operations of IBM System 34  
5/84 Developing Capable Young People  
8/85 Applications of Lotus 1,2,3.  
3/90 Grant Writing Techniques  
2/91 Managing Multiple Demands

**COMMUNITY/AFFILIATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- 1980-87 Bethel Ambulance Service Volunteer  
1985-Present Kuskokwim 300 Sled Dog Race Committee Volunteer  
1988-90 Bethel City Planning Commission  
1989-91 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group  
1990-92 Lower Kuskokwim Fish & Game Advisory Committee (Bethel Representative)  
1991-92 Western Regional Fish & Game Advisory Council Secretary  
1992-93 United States/Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty Negotiations Delegate (Governor's appt.)  
1993-96 Quilinguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Cooperative Management Working Group  
1993-97 Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area Working Group  
1994-96 Lower Yukon Moose Management Committee  
1996-Present Alaska State Board of Game Member (Governor's appt.)

References available upon request.

## R E S U M E

Michael R. Fleagle  
P.O. Box 33  
McGrath, Alaska 99627

### EDUCATION:

Grade 1-8	Manley State Operated School	Manley Hot Springs, Alaska
Grade 9-11	Monroe High School	Fairbanks, Alaska
Grade 12	West Valley High School	Fairbanks, Alaska

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

Automotive Mechanics, Hutchison Career Center, Fairbanks, 1974, 3/4 Credit  
Auto and Diesel Mechanics, Teamster's Training Trust, Anchorage, 1977 16 weeks, Graduated.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

McGrath Christian Fellowship Board, Board member	1984-1986
Bean Ridge Corporation Board, Vice-president	1983-1985, 1993-Present
McGrath City Council, Council member	1985-1987
McGrath Advisory School Board, Chairman	1993-1996
Kuskokwim Public Broadcasting Corporation, Vice-president	1993-1996
McGrath Native Village Council, 2nd Chief	1995-Present
Doyon, Limited Board, Board member	1996-Present

### WORK EXPERIENCE:

I started in the workforce in 1977 on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as a Teamster swamper and tire changer in Prudhoe until RIF in October 1977.

My work experience is rather diverse, having spent most of 2 years in Barrow as a light duty and a heavy duty mechanic between 1979 and 1982. I worked as a heavy equipment operator for the City of Fairbanks in the summer of 1982, and when laid off at season's end, returned to McGrath.

Since returning, I've worked for McGrath Light and Power as a power plant operator, Alaska Construction and Mining as a mechanic/welder/operator at Moore Creek Mine, self employed as a mechanic, City of McGrath as a water plant operator and equipment operator, Rockford Construction as a welder and operator. In April of 1985, I went to work seasonally for the State Division of Forestry as a maintenance worker, and spent some time on fire assignments, including Lower 48. In the winters, I would trap, do mechanics work, building maintenance, plumbing and heating, etc. September, 1989 brought me to my present occupation, and that is a heavy equipment mechanic/operator for the State Department of Transportation. I travel to 5 other communities in my duties to assist in their airport operations.

OTHER INTERESTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Private pilot and aircraft owner since 1993.

Lifelong hunter and trapper.

Metal detecting and sluicing gold mining tailings.

Boating on the Kuskokwim River.

Salmon fishing and smoking.

Built our own 26'x32' 2-story log home on a family homestead, including harvesting and milling logs.

Alaska Federation of Natives Parents of the Year award, 1992.

GREGORY P. STREVELER  
Icy Strait Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 94  
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

**RESUME'**

Vital Statistics

- Male, 57 years of age.
- Thirty year resident of Gustavus, Alaska.
- Married to Judith T. Brakel
- Five children/stepchildren

Education

- B.S., University of Wisconsin. Biology. 1963.
- M.S., University of Wisconsin. Ecology. 1966.
- U.S. Park Ranger training, Albright Academy. 1967.
- Two quarters additional ecological training, U. Washington. 1977 & 1979.

Employment History

- Member, zoological expeditions to Aleutian and Kodiak Islands, summers 1962, 64.
- Assistant on study of ground squirrel ecology, Cape Thompson, AK, summer 1965.
- Asst. to Herring/shellfish Biologist, ADF&G, Petersburg, AK, 1966-67.
- Park Ranger, Glacier Bay National Park, 1967-73.
- Research Biologist, Glacier Bay National Park, 1973-79.
- Wilderness Guide, Alaska Discovery, Inc., Juneau, summers 1980-87.
- Teacher, for Univ. of AK Southeast and Alaska Discovery Inc., summer field course "The Natural History of Glacier Bay", 1981-89.
- Contractor, with Gulf Oceanic Society, to ADF&G, on wildlife survey of Gustavus beaches & wetlands, 1983.
- Teacher, for Gustavus School, science and math, winters 1982-86.
- Gardener, Gustavus Inn, summers 1980-86.
- Contractor, with Environaid, inc., on Hydrology study of Gustavus, for Community of Gustavus, 1985-87.
- Planner & Research Facilitator, Glacier Bay National Park, 1987-89.
- Legislative Aide, for Representative Peter Goll, winter 1990.
- Contractor, to National Audubon Society, as vertebrate expert on expedition to Russian Arctic, summer 1991.
- Contractor, to National Audubon Society, to prepare education materials on natural history of Beringia, 1991-92.
- Contractor, to U.S. Forest Service, on survey of mammals of the Homeshore area, Juneau RD. 1991-92.
- Teacher, for U. Vermont, graduate field course on Natural History of Glacier Bay, summers 1984-1994.
- Teacher, for Discovery Foundation, Environmental Education training for teachers, winters 1989-present.
- Teacher, University of Alaska, SE. June 1990-1996, course on the Natural history of SE Alaska.
- Contractor, to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, to assemble info. on Southeast Alaskan caves, 1993.
- Contractor, to the City & Borough of Juneau, to characterize the mammal fauna of city watersheds, 1993.
- Contractor, to Gustavus Electric Co., to provide an environmental evaluation of the Falls Creek proposed hydro site, 1993-present.
- Teacher of ecotourism guides and Park employees, Haines and Skagway areas, spring 1994-present.
- Contractor, for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 1994, to evaluate potentials for impacts of park management actions, and to prepare laypersons' summaries of recent USFS and USGS technical reports.
- Contractor, to University of Alaska American Russian Center, March 1995, to co-instruct an ecotoursim workshop for Russian citizens.
- Teacher, Sheldon Jackson College Elderhostel, 1993 - present.
- Contractor, to Glacier Bay National Park,
  - May-July 1995, to participate in geological investigations accompanying an archaeological survey of Icy Strait.
  - January - March, 1996, to summarize glacial history for selected park watersheds

- December, 1998 – February, 1999, provide draft introduction to Resource management Plan.
- Contractor, to the USNPS Denver Service Center, July-December 1995, to provide an environmental survey of portions of the Gustavus, Bartlett Cove and Indian Point areas.
- Contractor, to Ch2M Hill, Inc., November 1995 - April 1996, to provide ecological background on birds and mammals for a supplemental EIS on proposed AJ mine, Juneau.
- Member, State Board of Game, October 1997 - present.
- Contractor to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, November 1997 - April 1998, to advise on issues related to Glacier Bay commercial fishing.
- Contractor to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, April 1998 - Present, to characterize the tourism industry in SE Alaska and describe its effects on local people & resources.
- Contractor of Gustavus Electric, May 1998 - present, coordinate environmental studies of proposed hydro site near Gustavus, Alaska.
- Contractor to Glacier Gardens, Inc., October 1998 – present, to characterize mammal and bird usage of lands proposed for road development.

# Lawmakers rip Keeler

## Panels shun Knowles' Game Board appointee

By ELIZABETH MANNING  
Daily News reporter

The Legislature's resources committees voted unanimously Monday to recommend against confirming wildlife photographer Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game.

Gov. Tony Knowles named Keeler to the board last month. Committee members, some openly antagonistic, grilled Keeler over his views about wildlife management and particularly about wolves and wolf control.



Keeler, an employee of the U.S. Forest Service and a wildlife photographer, introduced himself as a lifelong hunter. He said that as a board member, he would try to forge public consensus on wolf control while also promoting wildlife viewing.

Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, challenged Keeler to state where the constitution says

See Back Page, GAME BOARD

## Manage state's wildlife for Alaskans, Game Board told

The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS — Wolf control dominated testimony at Alaska Game Board hearings here over the weekend.

Joel Bennett, executive director of the environmental group Defenders of Wildlife, told the panel Sunday that there's something about shooting animals from airplanes that's distasteful to the public.

"That may be where most of your resistance is coming from," Bennett said, referring to Gov. Tony Knowles' refusal to allow wolf control programs already approved by the Game Board around McGrath and in the Nelchina Basin.

"The public will look the other way on sterilization or bear relocation, but people are not comfortable with shooting them out of airplanes," said Bennett, a wildlife photographer, hunter and former Game Board member.

Sunday's testimony was basically a rerun of the first two days', with more

than 30 people testifying before the panel about a variety of hunting and trapping issues. But once again, wolves dominated the discussion.

People in favor of killing wolves to boost struggling moose and caribou populations argued that it is the state's responsibility to manage Alaska's wildlife resources for hunters and trappers and not tourists.

People opposed to killing wolves want to set up a special protection area around Denali National Park and Preserve. They contend that the state must consider all user groups when managing wildlife.

Tok hunter and trapper Glenn DeSpain urged the board Sunday to manage Alaska's game for residents, not visitors.

"I've been in Alaska 59 years, and I have yet to find a tourist who has come up to me and asked where they can see a wolf," DeSpain said. "They may want

to see wolves, but that's not the main reason they come up here."

Trapper Lynn Keough of the South-central chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association found it ironic that preservationists arguing for a protective buffer zone for wolves around Denali Park say it is needed because the wolves have become "habituated" from their contact with humans.

"We're opposed to any activity that habituates wildlife to humans and providing protection beyond what the National Park Service is providing," Keough said. "We favor keeping Alaska's wildlife wild."

Ed Gelvin of Central told the Game Board that wolves have taken a large chunk out of the moose population in the mining country 120 miles north of Fairbanks. He said the decline began when wolf bounties were removed and aerial hunting was banned.

March 6, 2000

**Comments on the appointment of Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game by Douglas Donegan.**

Alaska faces a crossroads in the management of its game resources. There are seemingly enormous divides between those who wish to view wildlife and those who harvest game for food and recreation.

Unfortunately, the Board of Game has become increasingly polarized with less and less attention being paid to the legitimate concerns of Alaskans who enjoy wildlife viewing. As a consequence, the Board has made some ludicrous decisions. A good example is the proposed Anchorage moose hunt in Chugach Park which was opposed by the Park, the Park Advisory Board, public testimony, and a neighborhood organization. The only people who spoke in favor of a hunt were the hunting groups. Despite the opposition, the Board decided to ignore the comments and concerns of the park neighbors and decided in favor of a hunt.

This type of biased decision making fuels a lack of confidence and trust in the Board's decisions and contributes to a growing sense of mistrust of the present board.

It's time the Board of Game began to act like a group of Alaskans instead of some exclusive club. At the moment the Board seems to only represent those who want to hunt at the expense of all other considerations. The legislature has been an active player in reinforcing the board's polarity. I think it is time for a small change, one member of the board that does not only represent the hunting interests.

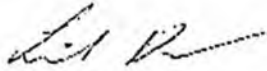
Leo Keeler may not reflect your personal views on wildlife management. I believe that your role in the confirmation process should be to determine if he is qualified to serve on the board, if he has the necessary background and experience and skills. He should not be denied a seat because he does not fit the cookie cutter mold of the other Board members.

If we are ever going to resolve some of our game management issues such as predator control programs, it will require that people with different values and viewpoints agree to work together and make some concessions. I think the appointment of Leo Keeler would be an excellent step in beginning to re-establish the credibility of the Board of Game.

Douglas Donegan  
12300 Ginami Steet  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516



It's time to restore some balance to the Board of Game. Because they are so polarized and have lost the confidence of many Alaskans, Leo Kccler's appointment would go a long way in restoring some credibility to the Alaska Board of Game.



Linda Donegan  
12300 Ginami Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

**Subject: BOG Candidate Leo Keeler**

**Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 15:30:47 -0900**

**From: "bhopson" <bhopson\_village@co.north-slope.ak.us>**

**To: <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>**

Dear Senator Halford,

I am a subsistence user within the State of Alaska and I am not in favor of St. of Alaska Board of Game candidate Leo Keeler. I don't see why Alaska has to be further locked up from hunting and trapping around Denali Park. Why don't politicians see this abuse of locking up Millions of acres of land for National Parks. Alaska has enough lands for seeing its beauty including its wildlife. As it is now a person can practically see a wolf anywhere in Alaskan wilderness.

I believe the new BOG candidate should be a person that is a user of fish and game since this board addresses issues of this nature for the residents of Alaska.

**Subject:**

**Date:** Mon, 6 Mar 2000 15:42:09 -0900

**From:** " Pat & Arleta OConnor" <oconnor@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford,

We oppose the appointment of Leo Keeler to the game board because of his past history. He opposes hunting and trapping.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Arleta O'Connor

PO Box 3687

Palmer, AK 99645

Subject:

Pass 3 Daycare Funding

Date:

Mon, 6 Mar 2000 18:58:46 -0900

From:

"Donna Gannon" <dlgannon@hotmail.com>

To:

<Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent decision to cancel Pass 3 funding for daycare assistance scheduled to take place March 31. This decision will not only have a significant effect on my family but on the lives of many families in the State of Alaska. It is a decision that is not only going to cause a great deal of frustration for those of us affected by it, but it will cause extreme financial hardship as well.

As a single mother of two children, I have depended on daycare assistance for some years now to enable me to leave my home to work. After my divorce, I depended on this assistance to allow me to attend classes and, after graduation, daycare assistance allowed me to go to work while still affording quality care for my children. The daycare assistance I have been receiving has played an enormous role in allowing me to move as far ahead as I have and I am still depending on this assistance to make ends meet. This is a situation common to many parents that I know. I feel frustrated and angered to think that all of the hard work and determination it took for us to get where we are today could possibly result in some of us being forced back home and onto the welfare system when we cannot afford to pay our daycare bills! What will this accomplish? I am sure this was not the intent behind cutting this assistance, but unfortunately, it is our reality. This is not only going to be hard on those of us trying to make a monthly daycare payment that is double or more what we would normally pay, but it is going to have an adverse effect on daycare providers as well. I can imagine what they stand to lose when parents cannot pay their full monthly bills or are forced to remove their children from a facility because of this. Lower enrollment may also mean fewer care providers will be needed at daycare facilities, which would mean cutting jobs. Just how is the local economy going to benefit from this? This is going to cause difficult lifestyle changes for many of us and financial struggles which I am sure we will not all be able to overcome.

I have hoped in the future to find myself able to make my daycare payments without assistance, but I fear this is not that time. Over

the years, I have earned raises at work and have gone from receiving 97% coverage to 50% coverage, and this has worked out well; however, to go from 50% coverage to nothing at all at the drop of a hat is shocking, frightening, and could be financially devastating.

I am hoping you will understand the incredible impact this is going to have on us and come to our aid. We depend on this assistance to keep our children in quality daycare facilities so that we can work. So many of us have worked so hard to come to where we are today, and I do not want to see anyone lose what they have earned because of this unfortunate situation. Please consider the hardship and distress this is going to cause to so many and what may be done to resolve it.

Sincerely,

Donna L Gannon

Working Single Mother

GANNON, DONNA L  
PO BOX 870352  
WASILLA AK 99687  
District: 26-038 Party: U Sex: F

**Subject: BOG appointment**

**Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 20:01:40 -0900**

**From: Monica ANHSC <aksealmr@ptialaska.net>**

**Organization: ANHSC**

**To: Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Halford,

I am writing in opposition of Leo Keeler's appointment to the Board of Game. For someone who proposed closing hunting and trapping of wolves on half a million acres as a buffer zone around Denali Park, he is not a good choice for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Monica Riedel  
Executive Director,  
Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission

**Subject: No to Keeler**

**Date:** Mon, 06 Mar 2000 21:40:50 PST

**From:** "Robert Glover" <whelen35@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford,

I understand that a Mr. Keeler is to be placed on the Alaska State Fish and Game board. Because this man is said to be backed by the organization called Wildlife Alliance I am very concerned about his appointment. I also understand that you are against Mr. Keelers' appointment as well and I want you to know that you have my support.

Thank you,  
Bob G.

---

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**Subject: Leo Keelers**

**Date:** Mon, 6 Mar 2000 22:46:54 -0800 (PST)

**From:** AK trapper <aktrapper1@yahoo.com>

**To:** Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford:

I have been informed that you are supportive of Governor Knowles' appointment of Leo Keelers to the Board of Game.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider this endorsement. Mr. Keelers' support of the proposed "wolf protection buffer" around Denali Natl Park deeply disturbs me. This is in no way a biologically-based management decision, and is only reflective of Outside politics.

The Board of Game should consist of people willing to stand up to animal rights groups and support Alaskans. I do not believe that Mr. Keelers is one of these people.

Sincerely,  
Dusty McDonald  
North Pole

---

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<http://im.yahoo.com>

**Subject: Keegler Confirmation**

**Date:** Mon, 06 Mar 2000 22:42:22 -0900

**From:** Jacque & Mike Tinker <tinker@mosquitonet.com>

**To:** Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Rick, I understand that Mr. Keegler indicated that I supported his confirmation to the BOG. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yeh, he asks questions but his obvious disrespect for the law and duties of a member of the BOG reflect an arrogance we don't need. Count me in the NO column.

Mike Tinker, Fairbanks AC Chairman

**Subject: Game Boarded Appt**

**Date: Tue, 07 Mar 2000 09:05:48 -0900**

**From: Bruce Knowles <bigfish@matnet.com>**

**To: Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us**

I have spoken to many people out here in the valley and we are opposed to the appointment of Mr. Keeler to the Game Board. We do not feel that he will benefit the overall operation of the board

Bruce Knowles

## A PERFECT WORLD

### Once upon a time in an enchanted land:

Noble King Knowles and his loyal subjects,  
Lived in a beautiful place...  
It was a diverse land where all people had plenty,  
Without regard for color, creed or race.

Wildlife was abundant because his advisors and subjects,  
Were given an important say...  
And developed the best wildlife management policy,  
Known in the world today.

It was based on sound biology,  
While providing a balance and abundance for all...  
Where predators and ungulates were managed  
Without worry of a population fall.

Then the balance was shattered by evil soothsayers  
Who stole the ear of the King...  
Convincing him that humans and wolves living together  
Was the most important thing.

He overruled his wise advisors,  
And loyal subjects throughout the land...  
Noble King Knowles set wildlife policies  
With ignorance and an unforgiving hand.

Soon the country had no caribou or moose  
From Juneau to McGrath...  
While noble King Knowles, his soothsayers and wolves  
Skipped down a flower-covered path.

We live in a beautiful, perfect world  
They would whisper under their breath...  
While everyone else in this kingdom knew  
They had loved the wildlife to death!!!

You can put a stop to a Kingdom without wildlife by promoting sound biological wildlife management in lieu of management by emotionally charged coercion. Please help in supporting Representative Morgan's resolution – HJR-56. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

D. Keith Phillips, President  
Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Chapter  
Safari Club International

Honorable Governor Tony Knowles  
State of Alaska, Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles.

I would like to volunteer to serve on the Board of Game. I am 50 years old and have lived in Alaska since April of 1981, in the community of Cordova from 1981 to 1986 and now in Anchorage. I offer the following summary of my involvement with wildlife harvesting and management for your consideration.

I have hunted in Alaska almost every year since I could walk and accompany my father. As a teenager in Arizona, I trapped coyote, bobcat and fox to supplement our family's income. I have been successful hunting with archery equipment as well as a gun. I always depended on game meat for sustenance and have taken moose, sheep, caribou, deer and black bear here in Alaska. My hunt last season was for caribou near Dillingham, but I have hunted in Southeast Alaska, the Interior, the Arctic, the Alaska Peninsula and Central Alaska. In addition to my personal hunting, I assisted my brother and another close friend in the taking of a brown bear and I am constantly helping friends determine where to hunt and how to prepare for hunting in various regions of Alaska.

My formal education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in forest land management from Northern Arizona University. This curriculum taught me the interrelationships of vegetation management and manipulation as it affects wildlife and other resources. An informal education (self-taught) in wildlife photography has provided me an in depth understanding of how wildlife depend on and use their habitat.

My current job is a Real Estate Specialist for the Chugach National Forest. My primary duties are to monitor land conveyances to the state and Natives to ensure easements are retained to provide public access to public lands. I have also been the coordinator for the Chugach National Forest Rural Community Assistance program providing grants to assist in use of natural resources to develop or support businesses in rural communities.

Following the Owsichuk decision, which eliminated the exclusive guide system in Alaska, I represented the US Forest Service to the Outfitter Guide Board and Commercial Services Board while they were developing a new system under which guides could operate. Along with other federal representatives, I provided information on how state regulations could be coordinated with federal management. This process resulted in the current system enabling guides to be registered in a maximum of 3 guide use areas at any one time.

Earlier in my career as a Forester, I designed habitat manipulation projects to increase forage for deer and elk. I have also assisted biologists in population surveys and capacity analysis for wildlife. As a Forester in charge of recreation management, I know how important sound wildlife management is to the public, for both consumptive and non-consumptive users.

As wildlife photographers, my wife and I have had the opportunity to see and photograph events rarely observed. These events include interactions of predator and prey that have given me a good understanding of how each depends upon the other. Some of these have been used by biologists to convey their message of what is required for sound wildlife management. However, the income we have received from photography has primarily come from selling prints to tourists, and now screen savers to corporate clients.

In 1985, I served on the Cordova Fish and Game Advisory Committee. My most recent involvement in management of wildlife in Alaska has centered on efforts to raise recognition of unique and valuable wildlife resources. My wife and I were leaders in the process to establish the McNeil River Refuge, closing the Refuge to brown bear hunting. We are currently involved in efforts to protect the Toklat wolves when they leave Denali National Park. I have assisted the Department of Fish and Game by serving on the Stakeholders Group to revise the management and permit system for the McNeil River brown bear viewing program. I have submitted proposals to the Board of Game for the management of the McNeil River program and for the protection of the Toklat wolves.

I serve as Chairman of the Board of Friends of McNeil River. I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Chapter, American Society of Media Photographers. In addition, I am also a member of the North American Nature Photography Association, the premier organization for professional wildlife photographers worldwide, where I serve as the Chairman of the Advocacy Committee, which deals with issues impacting photographers, both regionally and nationally.

It would be an honor to serve you, the Legislature and the people of Alaska by becoming a member of the Board of Game.

Sincerely,



LEO KEELER  
P.O. Box 190647  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Work Phone - 271-2547

# STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100  
FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2332

March 3, 2000

Honorable Rick Halford  
Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
Capitol Building, room 121  
Juneau, AK 99801

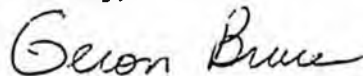
Dear Senator Halford:

You requested information regarding the purchases of hunting and fishing licenses by Mr. Leo J. Keeler, who was recently appointed to the Board of Game. We have checked our records and Mr. Keeler purchased hunting licenses for the years 1996 through 1999. In three of those years, he purchased a combination hunting and fishing license. In 1995, he purchased a fishing license, but not a hunting license.

I have enclosed the records of his license purchases from our license files and a key to the license codes.

If I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Geron Bruce  
Special Assistant

cc: Pat Pourchot

Enclosures

SELLER  
Vendor: 7452 Longs Drugs #103

FILM  
Batch: 6098 Seq #: 66

LICENSE  
Lic Yr: 1995 Type Code: AA Lic #: 398022

COLLECTION RPT  
Doc Date: 08-30-1995 Doc #: 1

APPLICANTS NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)  
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS  
BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AK 0781664 SSN

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ALASKA RESIDENCY 14 YEARS 03 MONTHS

CLASS 04 DATE ISSUED 07-18-1995 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS YEAR: Wild ITEM #:

SELLER  
Vendor: 1265 Sports Den (The)

FILM  
Batch: 19434  
Seq #: 80

LICENSE  
Lic Yr: 1996 Type Code: AA Lic #: 6204458

COLLECTION RPT  
Doc Date: 08-20-1996  
Doc #: 6

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)  
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS  
BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AK 0781664 SSN

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ft in ALASKA RESIDENCY 15 YEARS 3 MONTHS

CLASS 01 DATE ISSUED 07-25-1996 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT YEAR:

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS Wild ITEM #:

SELLER  
Vendor: 3748 HIP Program

FILM  
Batch: Seq #:  
[ ] [ ]

LICENSE  
Lic Yr: 1997 Type Code: AA Lic #: 7620772

COLLECTION RPT  
Doc Date: Doc #:  
07-23-1997 81

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)  
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS  
PO BOX 190647

SOURCE  
[ W ]

CITY STATE ZIP CODE COUNTRY  
ANCHORAGE AK 99519-0647 USA

SEX US CITIZEN BIRTHDATE DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER SSN  
M Y 02-25-1950 AK 0781664 [ ]

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ALASKA RESIDENCY YEARS MONTHS  
185 [ ] [ ] 5 ft 10 in 16 3

CLASS DATE ISSUED EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT  
02 07-16-1997 07-16-1997 [ ] YEAR: 1997

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS WILDLIFE PERMIT  
[ ] [ ] [ ] Wild ITEM #: 17273

**SELLER**

Vendor: 0007

Mt. View Sports Center, Inc.

**FILM**

Batch: 40810

Seq #: 41

**LICENSE**

Lic Yr: 1998

Type Codc: AA

Lic #: 8153814

**COLLECTION RPT**

Doc Date: 06-16-1998

Doc #: 35

**APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)**

LEO

J

KEELER

**MAILING ADDRESS**

PO BOX 190647

**SOURCE**

**CITY**

ANCHORAGE

**STATE**

AK

**ZIP CODE**

99519

**COUNTRY**

USA

**SEX**

M

**US CITIZEN**

Y

**BIRTHDATE**

02-25-1950

**DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER**

AK

0781664

**SSN**

**WEIGHT**

**EYE COLOR**

**HAIR COLOR**

**HEIGHT**

ft

in

**ALASKA**

17

RESIDENCY

YEARS

MONTHS

**CLASS**

04

**DATE ISSUED**

05-22-1998

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

**CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC**

**WILDLIFE PERMIT**

YEAR:

**BEGINNING DATE**

**ENDING DATE**

**RES STATUS**

Wild ITEM #:

SELLER Vendor: 0007 Mt. View Sports Center, Inc.

FILM Batch: 53241 Seq #: 287

LICENSE Lic Yr: 1999 Type Code: AA Lic #: 9127789

COLLECTION RPT Doc Date: 06-16-1999 Doc #: 13

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER SSN 526-88-3791

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ALASKA RESIDENCY 18 YEARS MONTHS

CLASS 04 DATE ISSUED 05-14-1999 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS YEAR: Wild ITEM #:

# 2000 ALASKA FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LICENSES SOLD HERE

NONRESIDENT										ALIEN
CLASS SIX A 14 DAY SPORT FISHING	CLASS SIX D 7 DAY SPORT FISHING	CLASS SIX B 3 DAY SPORT FISHING	CLASS SIX C 1 DAY SPORT FISHING	CLASS SEVEN SPORT FISHING	CLASS EIGHT HUNTING	CLASS EIGHT A SM GAME HUNTING	CLASS NINE HUNTING SPORT FISHING	CLASS NINE C 6D & 8 COMBINA- TION	CLASS TEN HUNTING TRAPPING	CLASS FIFTEEN HUNTING
\$50.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$100.00	\$85.00	\$20.00	\$185.00	\$115.00	\$250.00	\$300.00

RESIDENT					
CLASS ONE SPORT FISHING	CLASS TWO HUNTING	CLASS THREE A HUNTING TRAPPING	CLASS THREE B TRAPPING	CLASS FOUR HUNTING SPORT FISHING	CLASS FIVE HUNTING TRAPPING SPORT FISHING
\$15.00	\$25.00	\$39.00	\$15.00	\$39.00	\$53.00
CLASS ONE A FISH/BLIND* \$25	*Note: License classes marked with an asterisk (*) cannot be issued until the appropriate affidavit has been completed. Class One A and Two A Blind requires form 11-524 Affidavit of Blindness; persons who wish to purchase a Class 5A, Military, or Duplicate License, must complete affidavit on the back of the license or form 11-521.				CLASS 5A* \$5.00
CLASS TWO A HUNT/BLIND* \$25.00					CLASS 5B* DUP for Class 5A ONLY \$2.00

**ALASKA RESIDENT AS 16.05.940(26):** "resident" means, a person (including an alien) who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home here, has maintained that person's domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license, and is not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country; a member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license; or a dependent of a resident member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has lived in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license. A person who does not otherwise qualify as a resident may not qualify by virtue of an interest in an Alaska business.

**PERSONS EXEMPT FROM LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- (a) Residents or nonresidents under the age of 16 years for sport fishing.
- (b) Residents under the age of 13 years for hunting and trapping.
- (c) Residents 60 years of age or more who have been residents for one year or more. (Note: A Permanent Identification Card, which must be in possession while sport fishing, hunting, or trapping, is available without charge from the Department of Fish and Game.)

MILITARY			DUP*
CLASS TWELVE SPORT FISHING	CLASS THIRTEEN SMALL GAME HUNTING	CLASS FOURTEEN SPORT FISHING SMALL GAME HUNTING	CLASS EIGHTEEN DUPLICATE
\$15.00	\$25.00	\$39.00	\$5.00

**NONRESIDENT MILITARY TAGS AS 16.05.340(d)**  
Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.26) may obtain special nonresident military small game and sport fishing licenses at the rates for resident hunting and sport fishing licenses, but may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a regular nonresident hunting license at full cost and a numbered, nontransferable appropriate tag issued at one-half of the nonresident rate.

**DUPLICATE LICENSES AND TAGS ..... \$5.00**  
**DUPLICATE CLASS 5A LICENSE ..... \$2.00**  
A separate duplicate license or tag must be issued for each class of license or tag lost. Duplicate licenses and tags are available from any license vendor.

**KING SALMON STAMP Resident ..... \$10.00**  
**Nonresidents**  
One-day stamp ..... \$10.00  
Three-day stamp ..... \$20.00  
Seven-day stamp ..... \$30.00  
Fourteen-day stamp ..... \$50.00  
Annual stamp ..... \$100.00  
Military ..... \$20.00  
Duplicate ..... \$ 5.00

This stamp is required for anyone who fishes for anadromous king salmon except for residents and nonresidents under the age of 16 and persons who have these license types: Class 1A—\$25, Class 5A—\$5.00, Permanent Identification Card, or Disabled Veteran's License.

## BIG GAME TAGS

The following state tags must be procured for each animal in addition to acquiring the proper license before hunting big game. The tag shall be affixed and sealed to the antlers or cape in such a manner that it cannot be removed or reused.

Tag Type	Resident Rate
Brown/Grizzly Bear	\$ 25.00
Muskox-Bull	\$ 500.00
Muskox-Cow	\$ 25.00

**NONRESIDENTS** hunting for brown/grizzly bear, sheep, or goat must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Sec. 16.05.407 of the Fish and Game Code of Alaska.

**NONRESIDENT ALIENS** hunting for any big game species must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Sec. 16.05.408 of the Fish and Game Code of Alaska.

Tag Type	Nonresident Rate	Military Rate	NR Alien Rate
Brown/Grizzly Bear	\$ 500.00	\$250.00	\$ 650.00
Black Bear	\$ 225.00	\$112.50	\$ 300.00
Bison	\$ 450.00	\$225.00	\$ 650.00
Caribou	\$ 325.00	\$162.50	\$ 425.00
Deer	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 200.00
Elk	\$ 300.00	\$150.00	\$ 400.00
Goat	\$ 300.00	\$150.00	\$ 400.00
Moose	\$ 400.00	\$200.00	\$ 500.00
Muskox	\$ 1,100.00	\$550.00	\$ 1,500.00
Sheep	\$ 425.00	\$212.50	\$ 550.00
Wolf	\$ 30.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 50.00
Wolverine	\$ 175.00	\$ 87.50	\$ 250.00

**WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP ..... \$5.00**  
This stamp is required for anyone who hunts waterfowl except for residents under the age of 16, and persons who have these license types: Class 5A \$5.00, Permanent Identification Card, or Disabled Veteran's License.

## Leo Keeler's Letters to the Editor, Taken from the Anchorage Daily News

Anchorage Daily News

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Thursday, February 10, 2000 Page: B9 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Time to weigh in on McGrath

McGrath moose dropped from 1,900 to 1,400 (26 percent decline), wolves from 164 to 56 (66 percent decline) and reports say nearby habitat will not support more moose. Have hunters "decreased?" No, they gather at McGrath to strategize.

Will the public support wolf control if someone just claims hardships? Are decision-makers asking basic questions like: Was 1,900 a natural peak? If wolf numbers naturally dropped 66 percent and moose dropped only 26 percent, are wolves really a problem? Nearby habitat cannot support more moose; what is different here? If hunters from outside the community take 50 percent of the moose, should only locals hunt here? Is this sound science?

Fish and Game got the Board of Game to pass wolf control to prevent moose decline in Unit 13. Their draft plan wants a change from 0.8 cows per mile to 1.0 per mile -- 20 percent increase, through aerial wolf harvest. Will support at McGrath lead to supporting this plan?

More than 20,000 people per year see the Toklat wolves of Denali. Will the board protect them from hunting and trapping? Will the McNeil River of wolves be lost to a saturation snare set?

Will the board decide each issue on its own merits? Is a wildlife board needed? Comments sent to the board by Feb. 18 will make a difference. Address: BOG Comments; Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; Fax 907-465-6094.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

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Tuesday, April 06, 1999 Page: B5 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife not just for hunters

In his March 29 Compass article, Alaska Outdoor Council President Rod Arno asks the public to give up their last voice in wildlife management -- the ballot initiative. Mr. Arno says the Board of Game will listen and act for all Alaskans.

At the November 1993 Game Board meeting a board member said, "If you don't hunt, we don't want to hear from you."

Nicole Whittington-Evans could not get confirmed to the board. She worked for an environmental organization.

Vic Van Ballenberghe, an expert moose biologist with years of field experience in Unit 13, would not commit himself to wolf control at any cost. He was not confirmed.

Any candidate that is not actively pro-hunting is blocked from confirmation by legislators that made recent confirmation hearings sound like the Spanish Inquisition.

The current board members appear more open to listening to the public, but are their decisions any different -- voting for same-day-airborne bear hunting?

Recent legislation requires the board to make a determination of best use of wildlife. I heard the board declare human consumption as highest use, just because lots of hunters use the area. Have any units been dedicated to other uses? Why not?

As a hunter, I say we must keep the ballot initiative process as it is. We also need to develop a "Wildlife Board" as a precursor to the Board of Game. Then wildlife management, not just hunting decisions, will be made for the benefit of all Alaskans, not just the 15 percent who hunt.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Saturday, May 09, 1998 Page: D10 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife board needed

The first Alaska Legislature realized that the management of fish and game was extremely important to all Alaskans and the general public should have control of how it is used. The Board of Fish and Game was established to enable the public to have that control.

The grueling confirmation process for Dr. Vic Van Ballenberghe and Nicole Whittington-Evans showed that today's legislators do not want the public fully represented in wildlife management. The Legislature's attempted reversal of the requirement to bring boned meat out to prevent waste highlights the Legislature's lack of concern for local requests and use of local knowledge. The loss of past board chairman Larry Holmes, because he encouraged full public participation in the board process, demonstrates the Legislature's desire to serve only hunters.

Legislation is developing to assure an elite few control use of Alaska's wildlife. Senate Bill 262 bars the board from regulating hunting equipment or hunting from roadways, moving cars, helicopters or other motorized vehicles. House Bill 414 always puts hunting over nonconsumptive uses. House Bill 168 prevents restricting ATV use regardless if requested by a local community or the use is destroying land. Senate Bill 250 requires unrealistic harvest levels. Should highly mobile and highly mechanized hunters be able to control the Legislature, do anything, go anywhere?

The wolf initiative showed that the public can remain involved and in control. With the Legislature ignoring the general public, maybe we need a wildlife board, with elected members who have more power in wildlife matters than the Legislature.

Write your representative.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Sunday, May 18, 1997 Page: E3 Section: Forum Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Board must represent public

As a hunter, I was amazed when Sen. Bert Sharp's April 27 letter dictated a position for wildlife management. He doesn't even pretend to listen to the public. The 58 percent vote on the wolf issue was a cry for fair process. Who heard it? As with the tobacco tax and billboards, the public's complaints on wildlife issues are discounted because hunters are "paying the entire cost of game management." Oil dollars run Alaska, not oil companies.

"Teaming with Wildlife" is a national program to have wildlife viewers contribute financially. Why hasn't the Legislature and Alaska's hunting groups supported "Teaming"? Will the \$14.8 million it will generate for Alaska take away the hunters' control of Alaska's wildlife managers? What decisions will prevail when "Teaming" funds surpass "hunters'" funds?

Sen. Sharp said that all have "unfettered opportunities to make their case before the board," even though past boards have stated that "if you don't hunt, I don't want to hear from you." Now that it appears the Board of Game may begin fulfilling its role as an autonomous group, efforts are being made to have only hunters on the board -- SB 22. If political pressure continues to make the board a puppet for hunters or for the Department of Fish and Game, why continue the charade? The Board of Game must separate itself from all interests, even Fish and Game, and represent only the public, or the process will fail and the public will vote to rebuild it another way. -- -- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, March 11, 1997 Page: B6 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife belongs to everyone

As a hunter, can I say I own Alaska's wildlife? The Alaska Constitution reserves wildlife for all residents, not only the 15 percent who hunt. It requires wildlife to be available for maximum use and benefit of all people. Sen. Taylor has proposed a law requiring Game Board members to hold hunting licenses. Will that ensure wildlife resources are used to benefit all people and interests, or give hunters ownership of Alaska's wildlife?

Hunting takes a public resource for private use. Do license fees for that privilege go to a public fund, similar to oil revenues or timber harvest? No. Alaska Statute 16.05.130 limits use of hunting fees and taxes to programs that only benefit hunters. What would Alaska look like if oil companies demanded the same consideration? Extremist legislators even cut wildlife education programs, thus limiting kids' ability to learn enough about wildlife to make informed decisions.

Alaska representatives are leading a growing nationwide drive to establish a Pitman Robertson-type tax on items used for wildlife watching and outdoor recreation. Extremist groups like Alaska Outdoor Council are fighting to prevent the "Teaming With Wildlife initiative" from becoming law. They claim there are problems with it. Rather than work to solve the problems and benefit wildlife, they would rather kill it. Alaska could get \$14.5 million for wildlife management from "teaming." Extremists are aware those funds would take away their control of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Shouldn't we be doing all we can to manage wildlife for everyone?

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, October 25, 1996 Page: B11 Section: Metro Edition: Final Bottom of Form 1 LETTERS TO PEOPLE

### VOTE TO RESTORE TRUST

Alaska Outdoor Council is against the wolf initiative because it erodes existing public process. A process overly influenced by radical hunting lobbyists. That was demonstrated in the McNeil Refuge controversy, where 300 letters requested to stop bear hunting and only four wanted it to continue. In the face of such overwhelming odds, the board's vote was just 4-3 to close the hunt. Were the last-minute politics of Ruggles and Van Ballenberghe board appointments part of AOC's public process?

AOC says the initiative "promotes crisis management of wildlife." Initiative supporters say Fish and Game can control wolf populations when the commissioner says it is needed and land-and-shoot should not be an everyday practice.

AOC says current federal laws prohibit aerial shooting and wildlife harassment, and the initiative invites costly legal actions. Enforcement officers say they cannot enforce existing laws. Loopholes caused by state-approved practices make it difficult to enforce those laws. Existing laws also invite legal actions, what's so different?

Doug Pope, past Game Board member and initiative proponent, points out that the federal subsistence conflicts and the difficulties opening ANWR relate to lack of trust in Alaska's public process. The U.S. Congress set standards for subsistence management that Alaska has yet to fulfill. They control opening ANWR. Voting to stop land-and-shoot practices, except by Fish and Game or of legally trapped animals, will help restore confidence in Alaska's public involvement and our ability to manage resources responsibly.

-- Leo Keeler Anchorage

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, April 19, 1996 Page: B9 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE  
Outdoor council not for Alaska

Alaska Outdoor Council is acting like the Freemen of Alaska. Their budget cut of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game now in legislation is just one example.

House Bill 77 (pushed by AOC to amend the Intensive Game Management Act) is on Gov. Knowles' desk for signing or vetoing. Fish and Game says HB 77 will devastate game management, both in total resource management and public support of hunting. To fulfill HB 77 mandates, caribou cows and calves will be shot, predators (including bears) will be maintained at low levels regardless of cost, scientific standards will be ignored and sustained yield will be defined by human desires, not natural abundance. Extremist leaders of AOC say because hunting fees support ADF&G that only hunting should be funded. Hunter surveys show average hunters are willing to have 20 percent of hunting fees go to support nonhunting activities. Currently, nonhunting programs are only 5 percent of the wildlife budget.

During legislative hearings on board appointments, AOC asked members to protest Vic Van Ballenberghe and Ann Ruggles. A Kenai member did, without checking, then apologized to Van Ballenberghe. How many others are blindly following this freeman band?

People and businesses are dropping AOC membership and support. As a hunter, I think that is the best thing they can do for Alaska and sound game management. Everyone will benefit if they and others write their legislators, Gov. Tony Knowles, or simply call your Legislative Information Office and leave a 50-word public opinion message supporting Knowles' board nominees and denouncing AOC's legislation.

-- Leo Keeler Anchorage

Anchorage Daily News

Thursday, August 03, 1995 Page: B8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Go hunt bears somewhere else

James Marchini wrote that the recent flood of hunting applications for the area including McNeil River State Game Refuge convinced him to apply next time, in revenge. Others are seeking ways to guarantee three bears are killed each year.

These people look at the McNeil River viewing program and just see a lot of bears. Would they look at the Mona Lisa and just see another painting? Would they care if they destroyed either one?

Many ethical hunters, like permit winner Bruce Baker, applied for the hunt to protect McNeil bears. A past Game Board member applied to protect McNeil bears. They all stood up for ethical hunters everywhere and said this hunt should be stopped. Like Safari Club or Ducks Unlimited, they were willing to act to end unethical hunts.

Some say the hunt is for different bears. They use data from the 1960-1970s tagging program, when most bears were harvested from the Katmai area, now a park. They do not acknowledge the shift in hunting pressure. They ignore recent Fish and Game biologists' reports of McNeil-like tolerance of bears in the hunting area. One bear calmly walked within 15 feet of the biologists.

You can vote to allow four hunters to hunt human-tolerant bears, or vote to close the area to hunting and have these four would-be hunters join the other 8,000 ethical bear hunters elsewhere in the state. Write to the Board of Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, 99802-5526.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, May 23, 1995 Page: B7 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Hunting McNeil bears unethical

Dick Bishop, of Alaska Outdoor Council, stated that hunting of McNeil River bears is a question of values. Friends of McNeil River questions the hunting of these specific bears, not the hunting of bears in other areas or even hunting moose or caribou in the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge. The value of McNeil bears and personal values or ethics of hunting these human-tolerant bears are the only issues.

To Friends, the bears that visit McNeil River Sanctuary are more valuable for viewing than for hunting. These bears are so tolerant of humans that they feed or even nurse their cubs within 50 feet, or closer, to humans, which makes hunting them unethical. We are asking those who agree with us to apply for permits

to hunt and, if drawn, to stay home. Permits can be picked up any place hunting/fishing licenses are sold; apply for hunt numbers 341 and 351.

Past efforts of Friends and the hundreds of letters from the public did not convince the Board of Game as to how strongly the public desires that these bears not be hunted. Instead, the board fulfilled the desires of AOC and the few hunters who do feel hunting these bears is ethical or true fair chase. I wonder if anyone who hunts the refuge will proudly tell his friends where he killed the bear. Especially, if his friends know that the McNeil River bears will let people walk right up to them.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Monday, September 27, 1993 Page: B8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Hunts at McNeil not 'fair chase'

Rod Arno's Sept. 2 letter complained about my efforts to close the McNeil River Refuge to brown bear hunting. Mr. Arno signed the letter as president of the Alaska Outdoor Council. I wonder if the ethical standards of AOC, and affiliated clubs, support hunting the McNeil River bears.

How can it be "fair chase" to hunt bears that have been taught for decades that people will not harm them? Hunting the McNeil River bears is not "fair chase," no matter where they are encountered. McNeil bears don't know the boundaries of the sanctuary that protects them. Traveling three miles north to the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge is easy for a bear. The Paint River fish ladder will draw more bears into the refuge where they will be hunted. Hunters will shoot at, injure or otherwise harm more bears than shown on harvest reports.

On Nov. 5, the Board of Game will address hunting in the McNeil River Refuge. Will they change their last decision allowing hunters to kill three McNeil bears? Will they ban brown bear hunting in the refuge and decrease the statewide harvest from 1,200 to 1,197, a 0.0025 percent reduction? Aren't the McNeil bears worth this small reduction?

As a hunter, I feel the value of the McNeil River viewing program is worth much more than the killing of three bears. If you feel the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge should be closed to hunting, write to the Board of Game in Juneau.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, August 17, 1993 Page: E8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

McNeil bears aren't fair game

Do Alaskans consider hunting the McNeil River brown bears ethical hunting? The president of Alaska Outdoor Council said in his letter to the editor of July 22 that "hunters will share the McNeil River State Refuge lands with wildlife viewers." I hope he does not think Alaskans want to watch bears accustomed to people walking up to shoot pictures of them be shot with rifles instead.

Some try to say that when the bears leave McNeil Falls they are again afraid of people. However, biologists have seen and recognized these individual bears in other areas and found the bears still demonstrate their

habituated nature. I have hunted brown bears for many years and will continue to do so as long as I am sure it is a "fair chase" type of hunt. Hunting the McNeil River is not very sporting or "fair chase."

Everyone is worried about what Bruce Babbitt's impression of Alaska and Alaskans will be and how his visit may influence future decisions. I hope that Babbitt and the Game Board see that not all hunters want things made easy for them, that Alaskans recognize and protect world-class resources such as the bear viewing at McNeil River and that we will make wise decisions that protect our unique resources.

Let Babbitt know your opinion and write the Board of Game, Box 25526, Juneau 99802, asking them to close the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge to bear hunting.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Wednesday, July 14, 1993 Page: B7 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Consider all uses of wildlife

The Alaska Outdoor Council is urging Fish and Game to forgo management practices that lead to habituation of brown bears.

Coincidentally, the president of AOC runs a bear-hunting guide business on lands surrounding the McNeil River Brown Bear Sanctuary. AOC is beginning to lobby the Board of Game before they address closing the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge to bear hunting in November.

Does AOC represent all outdoor interests as they say? Will ADF&G and the Board of Game recognize AOC's single-minded objective to fight any restriction on hunting and fishing, and not support other uses of state resources? If enough of the public voice their desires, maybe the Alaska Board of Game will consider nonconsumptive uses of wildlife.

During last year's controversy over McNeil River, Alaska residents and bear biologists identified the public enjoyment, economic value, scientific and educational usefulness of bear viewing. The new book "River of Bears" describes the history of development and value of bear viewing at McNeil River. A statement in the book "The only thing in life humans really need to worry about is ignorance and prejudice" appears to describe the major problem related to bear viewing and AOC's position.

Some will assume I am an animal rights activist without bothering to learn I hunt each year and guided my brother on a successful brown bear hunt last year. Others will be more open-minded and voice their views to the Board of Game before its November meeting.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Sunday, August 18, 1991 Page: E4 Section: Forum Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Save McNeil River sanctuary

The Army Corps of Engineers completed an analysis of the Paint River fish ladder in 1988. It stated the bears at McNeil River would be impacted, but did not say how. It did not address how the habits of the bears, or the viewing opportunities at McNeil River would change. Impact to McNeil River's designation as

a National Landmark was not evaluated. Also, managing the small fish return of McNeil River mixed with the 1,500,000 fish return for Paint River was not discussed.

A lawsuit questioning these and other issues was filed against the Corps. That prompted fishing interests to lobby for and obtain legislation addressing McNeil River Sanctuary. The new legislation allows bear hunting, uncontrolled land use and offers little protection for the bears. The fishermen were responsible for a ransom clause in the legislation. The legislation does not become effective until fish use the ladder. This new attempt to get the suit dropped failed. The lawsuit is still pending.

Recently, the Army Corps of Engineers announced its intention to address the issue of the McNeil River bears again. Still hoping to get the lawsuit dropped?

They ask interested people to comment to the Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Regulatory Branch, P.O. Box 898, Anchorage 99506-0098, referencing project SPN 91-4, by Aug. 31. If enough people comment, the Corps will understand the value of McNeil River and do a thorough analysis. They should ensure that this world-renowned placed not be ruined forever.

Leo Keeler

**WHY ARE WE KILLING ALASKA'S WOLVES?**

Please Join The Alaska Wildlife Alliance...

Thursday, March 2nd \* 6:30-8:30 pm

Egan Center, Downtown Anchorage

**RALLY:** Opposing Wolf Control (Begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.)

**PANEL DISCUSSION:**

Moderator and Wolf Biologist, Dr. Paul Joslin

25-year Moose Biologist, Dr. Vic Van Ballenberghe

Tourism Representative, Sarah Leonard

Ataska Board of Game Member, Leo Keeler

The Next Generation, 8-year old James Holleman

The Law and the People, Attorney Mike Grisham

**SLIDE SHOW**

by professional wildlife photographers Dorothy and Leo Keeler

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP BAD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. WILDLIFE IS FOR ALL ALASKANS!**

Alaska's Board of Game wants wolf control now! Show up and say no!!

For more information, call 277-0897

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance

P.O. Box 202022

Anchorage, AK 99520

(907) 277-0897

(907) 277-7423

<mailto:awa@alaska.net> <<mailto:awa@alaska.net>>

<http://www.akwildlife.org/> <<http://www.akwildlife.org/>>

[www.awimages.com](http://www.awimages.com)

**\*\*TOKLAT WOLF SPECIAL TUESDAY, NOV. 2nd ON CBS NEWS \*\***

*from the web site*



**\*\*TOKLAT WOLF SPECIAL TUESDAY, NOV. 2nd ON CBS NEWS \*\***

On Tuesday, November 2nd, CBS Evening News with Dan Rather featured the Toklat Wolves of Denali National Park, Alaska in a special segment of "Eye on America." Stay tuned... we expect them to do a followup story during the March Board of Game meeting.

The Toklat wolves are the most famous, most viewed, most photographed, first and longest studied group of wild wolves in the world.

Trapping season began November 1st, and it is our hope that people from all over the world will join us in seeking full legal protection for this special family of wolves.

(Please read the following six paragraphs, then go to our partner's site ([The Alaska Wildlife Alliance](#)) to send a free electronic postcard to voice your support for protecting the Wolves of Denali National Park. You can also help the Toklat wolves by purchasing a "[Wolves of Denali](#)" screensaver. You'll have a daily reminder of how special these wolves are, PLUS, 50% of the profits of the sale will go to The Alaska Wildlife Alliance. The proceeds will fund programs that protect the future of these very special wolves.

Thank you again for caring! My husband and I are professional wildlife photographers who are working with The Alaska Wildlife Alliance to try and save 10 of the rarest creatures on earth... the Toklat pack of wolves in Denali National Park, Alaska. This group of 10 wolves (only 2 adults, 4 yearlings, and 4 puppies from this year) is like no other. Like the McNeil River bears, they are totally habituated to humans and regularly walk next to bus loads of tourists, hikers, and photographers. They are currently being hunted and trapped as they follow their primary food source... a caribou herd that winters just outside of Denali National Park.

We are involved because we seem to have "wolf karma", and over the last ten years, have taken one of the largest collections of photographs of these wolves on earth. We have photos of pack members trotting next to buses and hikers, adorable photos of 6 week old puppies, several sequences involving two different bears and a wolf feeding on the same carcass, one sequence of the alpha male jumping over a carcass and dunking another wolf in a river, and the most amazing thing of all... this June, not once, not twice, but on 3 different days, we had a wild wolf walk within 5 feet of us AS WE SAT ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD. Imagine a wild wolf approaching you at EYE LEVEL.

We have tried the standard route of testifying before the Alaska Board of Game to give the pack protection throughout it's entire range, but were denied for political reasons. Alaska is a state where reason does not always prevail. A former governor was quoted on national T.V. as saying "You can't let nature run wild", and we have a current legislature lead by predator control supporters.

We hope to put pressure on our stalemated Alaskan political officials, and have the interested land managers work together to protect these wolves within their entire home range. The officials currently insist on managing the Denali wolf population as a whole, and ignore the international value of the watchable wildlife traits that are being passed on in this specific pack of wolves.

We urge you to contact Steve Martin, the Superintendent of Denali National Park and Governor Tony Knowles in support of protecting these wolves within their entire range (go to our partner's site ([The Alaska Wildlife Alliance](#)) to send a free electronic postcard to voice your support for protecting the Wolves of Denali National Park.). Please pass this information on to anyone you feel would be in a position to help us. And consider helping by giving this issue as much exposure as you have available. Trapping season began November 1st. The lives of 10 very special creatures depend on your help...

Our only enemy is apathy. We hope what you have seen and learned will convince you of your value in helping in this effort. Please don't turn away... We promise you...you will wake up in the morning feeling proud of what your involvement did for 10 of the rarest and most fascinating creatures on the planet.

**REMEMBER.....YOU CAN HELP THE TOKLAT WOLVES IN THREE WAYS:**

1) Please send a free electronic postcard to Governor Tony Knowles in support of the full protection of the Toklat wolves. Go to the web site of our partner, The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (<http://www.akwildlife.org/campaigns/toklat/epostcard.htm>), complete the short form and hit "send". It's quick and easy!

2) You can also help the Toklat wolves by purchasing a "Wolves of Denali" screensaver. Please go to: <http://www.awimages.com/DenaliWolfPreview.htm> to order a downloadable copy. You can enjoy your new screensaver immediately and have a daily reminder of how special these wolves are. PLUS, 50% of the profits of the sale will go to The Alaska Wildlife Alliance Toklat Wolf Fund, so you'll have the satisfaction of knowing you truly helped! The Toklat Wolf Fund has been set aside to fund programs that protect the future of these very special wolves.

3) Help us spread the word! It's fun and easy by sending a Free electronic postcard from our web site. Go to: <http://www.awimages.com/p5-index.html> and choose from several scenic or wildlife photos, fill in your message, address and send. You are welcome to send as many as you'd like, as often as you'd like!

Leo and I can't thank you enough for taking time to read this and helping at whatever level you feel comfortable. On behalf of the Toklat wolves, Bless your heart!

Most Sincerely,

Dorothy and Leo Keeler

To receive a copy of this article, send us an [E-mail](#) and request "send me CBS info".

**NEW SERVICE Totally FREE Wildlife Electronic [postcard3.html](#) POSTCARDS**

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The Alaska Wildlife Alliance invites you to attend ...

*"The Wolves of Denali National Park"*

*Slide Presentation*

7:30 pm– 9:00 p.m. Friday, February 18, 2000

Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center

Juneau, Alaska

Free Admission

*(Space is limited—arrive early!)*

Wildlife photographers Leo & Dorothy Keeler present a slide show with special emphasis on the Toklat family of wolves at Denali National Park. The Toklat wolves are the most famous, most viewed, most photographed, first and longest studied group of wild wolves in the world.



This presentation will include the highlights of interactions and behaviors rarely, if ever, captured on film. See 6-week old wild wolf puppies, a wolf chasing a fox and interactions between two bears and a wolf feeding on the same carcass. Most astonishing, view photos of a wolf walking within 5 feet of the photographers.

Part of the USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District  
Fireside Chat Series



To learn more about the Toklat wolves, visit the website of  
The Alaska Wildlife Alliance at  
[www.akwildlife.org](http://www.akwildlife.org)



To learn more about the work of photographers  
Dorothy & Leo Keeler, visit their website at  
[www.awimages.com](http://www.awimages.com)



**Alaska Wildlife Alliance**  
P.O. Box 202022  
Anchorage, AK 99520  
907-277-0897  
Email: [awa@alaska.net](mailto:awa@alaska.net)

*Toklat Wolf Slide  
Show ...  
Don't Miss It!*

# Alaska Outdoor Council

PO Box 73902  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3902  
Tel./FAX: (907) 455-4AOC (4262)  
[outdoor@polarnet.com](mailto:outdoor@polarnet.com)

February 28, 2000

The Honorable Tony Knowles  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
PO Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles:

Your recent intrusion into wildlife management is almost unprecedented. You boot out one of the best Game Board members we've had in years and threaten the rest of the Board with a blackmail scheme to patronize anti-hunters. Then you delay reappointing the other Board member whose term has expired while you wait to see if the Board will succumb to blackmail. This scheme has the paw-prints of Jim Ayres, your chief of staff, all over it. Maybe your "take no prisoners" approach in attempting to dictate wildlife management policies should be no surprise.

Whatever your reasons and whatever the advice may have been from your Machiavellian staff, you have made a mockery of the Game Board, the Board's public process, and of the public at large. This Game Board came up with a very sound position on wolf control as a result of dealing with all the factors involved. No one's interests were ignored. The realities of predator-prey relationships in Alaska were accurately presented. The Board did not propose predator control as a cure-all. They dealt with the practical necessity of developing a framework for deciding on how to manage wildlife where predation is a major influence on big game prey. They obviously took into consideration your spongy mantra of "sound science, cost effectiveness, broad public support" regarding predator control.

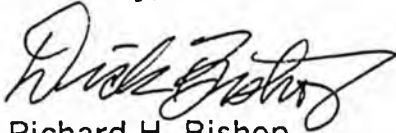
But when the Board acted on the logical conclusion that wolf control was warranted in GMU 19D(East) and in GMU 13, you told them they weren't doing their job right. After "firing" Bob Churchill by not reappointing him, you told the Board they better set up some new protective zones for wolves and bears or there would be no more talk of predator control. Then you appointed Leo Keeler to "help" them. Keeler has made a mini-career of opposing hunters' and trappers' interests. Instead of retaining a person with a broad perspective and proven ability, you have appointed a known extremist, claiming that will help the Board

represent "broader" interests.

Perhaps the most politically cynical aspect of your actions is that you know Keeler's appointment is unlikely to be confirmed by the Legislature. Keeler, for all his zeal and identity as an environmental advocate, is to you nothing more than a political pawn, whose appointment you know to be a hollow gesture.

By the time the smoke clears you will have savaged everyone's interests--the Game Board, hunters, trappers, viewers, photographers, ADF&G, the Legislature, etc. Hopefully, none of these folks will tolerate such unethical tactics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard H. Bishop".

Richard H. Bishop,  
Vice President



## Alaska Outdoor Council

PO Box 73902  
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-3902  
 Tel./FAX: (907) 455-4AOC (4262)  
 e-mail: outdoor@polarnet.com  
 www2.polarnet.com/users/outdoor/

Senator Rich Holford, Chair  
 Senate Resources  
 Alaska State Legislature  
 State Capitol  
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Holford:

Please be advised that the Alaska Outdoor Council is apposed to confirmation of Mr. Leo Keeler to a seat on the Alaska Board of Game. Mr. Keeler has supported the closure of bear viewing areas to hunting on the Alaska Peninsula when it was not necessary and he has been a strong proponent for the creation of buffer areas adjacent to Federal Park lands for protection of predators. At a time when we need objective Board members making decisions on our wildlife Mr. Keeler does not fit with what we perceive as a very slanted history toward consumptive users. We question whether the legislative mandate for intensive manage would receive fair consideration by this individual. Please vote no on his confirmation.

Yours truly,  
 Carl L. Roar, President  
 Alaska Outdoor Council

P O Box 20781 Juneau, AK 99802 Phone 463-3830/Fax 586-8020



# Fax

To: Senator Halford From: Carl L. Rosier  
 Fax: 465-4928 Pages: 1  
 Phone: 465-4958 Date: 3/6/00  
 Re: Conf of Leo Keeler CC:  
 Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

• Comments:

Territorial Sportsmen are opposed to confirmation of Mr Leo Keeler as a member of the Board of Game. His legacy of supporting closure of Bear viewing areas to hunting and support for creation of buffer areas adjacent to federal park lands for protection of predators indicates a severe lack of balance in his approach to game management in this state. We believe that such an individual would not be objective in his decision making capacity when the Board involves itself with intensive mgmt for the benefit of all Alaskans. Please oppose Mr Keeler's appointment.

March 6, 2000

Dear Senator Halford

Please DO NOT confirm Leo Keeler to the Alaska Game Board. The governor's reason for appointing him makes about as much sense as appointing a rapist to the victims rights committee. He is an avowed Wildlife Alliance partner. They are against hunting and want to add every little inconvenience there is to hunting. The Game and Fish boards make the rules we must go by. We don't need an obstructionist on the board to "give the other side" we need devoted conservationists from the hunting and fishing community of which there are many. Send him packing SOON. his web site alone should convince you. its address is:  
<http://www.awimages.com/CBS.htm>

Sincerely Stan Bloom  
303 Bentley Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
907-452-5068

**Subject: Oppose Mr. Keeler to Game Board**

**Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 13:47:49 -1000**

**From: "Thomas W Mc Kay" <TMCKAY@mail.aai.arco.com>**

**To: Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Halford:

I encourage you and the Legislature to oppose Governor Knowles' appointment of Mr. Keeler to the State Game Board.

I would rather see someone who shares more of Alaskans' traditional values and interests in hunting and fishing appointed to this Board.

Sincerely,

Tom McKay

Mr. Keeler to Alaska Game Board

**Subject: Mr. Keeler to Alaska Game Board**

**Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 13:48:33 -0900**

**From: sandy7 <nevergiveup@gci.net>**

**Organization: Never Give Up**

**To: Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Halford,

I am opposed to Mr. Keeler being appointed to the Alaska Game Board.

Sincerely, Glen Guy

**Subject: AK Board of Game Nomination**

**Date:** Fri, 25 Feb 2000 11:18:04 -0900

**From:** George Covell <srf1991@ptialaska.net>

**To:** govmail@gov.state.ak.us,

"Representative\_Bill\_Hudson@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Bill\_Hudson@legis.state.ak.u

"Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.stat

"Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>,

"Representative\_John\_Harris@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_John\_Harris@legis.state.ak.us

As an eighteen-year veteran of the Alaska Boards process and long-time chairman of the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee, it was with great disappointment that I read in this morning's Anchorage Daily News of the Governor's replacement of Board of Game Chairman Churchill with Leo Keeler. We have much experience with Mr. Keeler in Cordova but even more galling, is that on this sad occasion of federal usurpation of Alaska's fish and game management, the Governor has the insensitivity to appoint a federal employee to our Board of Game.

I would also suggest to the Governor that there is a large number of Alaskans who are well versed in the Alaska Boards process and associated fish and game issues through their often lengthy service on local fish and game advisory committees. Many of these citizens are much better qualified than a grenade thrower from the editorial page.

George Covell  
Cordova

**Subject: Re: Knowles appointment of Keeler to Game Board**

**Date:** Thu, 2 Mar 2000 09:59:37 -0900

**From:** "Jeff & Cyndi Chadd" <jchadd@ideafamilies.org>

**To:** <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford,

Governor Knowles latest political move to remove Bob Churchill from the Game Board and appoint Leo Keeler spells doom for the Alaska way of life of hunting and trapping. He is setting up a Game Board that is essentially "Green" and will destroy so much of what make Alaska a very special place to live. Keeler is being used as a pawn in Knowles power game.

The Board of Game had finally recognized the source of our moose & caribou population decline problem and were going to address the issue of predator control. Then in steps Gov. Knowles with his "environmental lobby" and totally destroys a working relationship between numerous agencies with quality game management in mind. What can we do? He is not an expert in this area and the outrage because of this has causes good people to step down.

I hope that when Leo Keeler comes before the Legislature for appointment that he would not even be considered!

Sorry to be so short and to the point, but time in of the essence!

Thank you for your time!

Jeff & Cyndi Chadd

MAR 01 2000

February 25, 2000

Senator Rick Halford

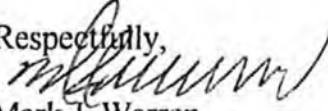
RE: Wolf – Kill program in McGrath area and removal of Bob Churchill from Board of Game.

Based on my personal observations while being privileged to fly GMU #19 including the McGrath area, averaging 500 flight hours per year since 1980, I am sure that the wolf population has drastically increased and the moose population has decreased in past 5 years.

I strongly recommend you back legislation to move ahead with a wolf kill program in GMU #19. I am sure you have considered that this is mandated by the "sustained yield management" clause of State constitution. Secondly, the hunting of moose in GMU #19 by subsistence hunters resident hunters and non-resident hunters contributing more new money to this area than non-hunter (observers) mining, sport fishing and the limited timber industry combined!

I am admittedly opposed to removal of Bob Churchill from BOG because he is a backer of wolf control and am requesting that you not approve Leo Keeler to Board.

Respectfully,

  
Mark J. Warren

*Warren Family's*

**STONEY RIVER LODGE, INC.**

P.O. BOX 670577 • CHUGIAK, ALASKA 99567

MAR 06 2000

P.O. Box 2778  
Palmer, AK 99645  
March 2, 2000

Senator Rick Halford,  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford,

I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming confirmation to the appointment of Leo Keeler to the Board of Game. I am asking you to vote against Leo's appointment. In the past ten years, Leo's own written letters to the editor have indicated he has not and will not support the Board of Game. I believe, and many others that I have talked to believe that Leo is Anti hunting, fishing, and trapping. Leo's letters seem to indicate that he is against the concept of scientific management of game and sound wildlife management.

I believe that the appointment of Leo Keeler to The board of Game would be a step in the wrong direction. A step in the wrong direction particularly for those who depend on wild game to supplement their food reserves.

Again I ask that you not support the appointment of Leo Keeler to the Board of Game!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Furbush".

John Furbush

Subject: Opposition to the appointment of MR. Keller to Game Board  
Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 13:59:31 -0900  
From: "Roy and June" <rjburk@alaska.net>

I am a forty Year resident of the State of Alaska, and an avid hunter. I am 62 years old and a disabled veteran. With the increase of age and my physical disabilities, it becomes more and more difficult to access the outdoors. On some occasions the board of game will take into consideration the affects various regulations will have on the elderly and the physically handicapped. These decisions are based on the ability of the board members to understand the hardships that a physically limited hunter faces each hunting season. I believe that the game board members should be hunters. I don't think that a Wild Life photographer could understand the problems and concerns of the older or handicapped hunters.

Roy J. Burkhart  
PO Box 204  
Willow, AK  
99688

Subject: Appointment of Mr. Keeler to the Game Board

Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 13:30:59 -0900

From: "Roy and June" <rjburk@alaska.net>

To: "Senator Rick Halford" <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

I am opposed to Mr. Keeler being appointed to the Alaska Game Board. It is my understanding that he will not be a good appointee due to his wanting more Federal Control, etc. He is backed by certain groups and alliances that do not truly look at all issues when it comes to Game Management and rights of hunters in Alaska. Governor Knowles appointed would not be a benefit, and I urge to oppose this man's appointment.

Thank you,  
June Burkhart, Willow, Alaska

Subject: Fw: Governor's BOG appointee, Leo Keeler  
Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 09:56:25 -0900  
From: "Robert Green" <nelchina@matnet.com>  
To: <Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>  
CC: <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>

Ms. Masek, Mr. Halford:

In addition to my original message, I would like to inform you of a letter to the Editor, Anch. Daily News, that Mr. Leo Keeler submitted to the paper. On May 9, 1998, Leo asked the public to write your representative to change the present democratic system of check and balances and create a Wildlife Board, to replace the legislature confirmation process. Mr. Keeler has within the last 10 years attacked the Board of Game and Legislative confirmation process by writing approximately 17 letters to the editor of the ADN. Mr. Keeler says he is a hunter but in reality is just an animal rights and preservation spoke person.

Please do not confirm Mr. Keeler, our present system is working as intended by our constitution.

Our Mat-Su Valley and Eagle River members are following this issue very closely and will also be informed by our monthly newsletter on the final outcome and how their representatives voted etc. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

Best regards,  
Bob Green

President, Alaska Frontier Trappers Association

-----  
Senator Green: I'm sending you this E-mail to ask you to NOT CONFIRM Governor Knowles appointment of Mr. Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game. Mr. Keeler has not supported the BOG and has advocated to create a Wildlife Board contrary to the present system. He is anti consumptive use of Alaska's wildlife and will be representing the Animal rights and preservation agenda. In the history of the Alaska Board of Game, there hasn't been a Governor who has interfered and intimidated BOG members more so than Governor Knowles. The Governor is destroying the present Alaska Wildlife management system to meet his personal agenda!

As President of the Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, representing over 200 Mat-Su valley families, I'm asking you to not confirm Governor Knowles appointment of Mr. Leo Keeler to the BOG. This request was approved by our six AFTA Board members along with a general membership vote at our March 1, 2000 meeting.

Best regards,  
Bob Green  
President Alaska Frontier Trappers Association

**Subject: Opposition to Leo Keeler's appointment to BOG**

**Date:** Mon, 06 Mar 2000 14:13:15 -0900

**From:** mnaneng@avcp.org (Myron Naneng)

**To:** Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Lyman\_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Albert\_Adams@legis.state.ak.us

With reports of moose laying dead on the tundra from the area around the Yukon River and many caribou kills that have been observed by hunters in villages on the east side of Kuskokwim River, we at AVCP adamantly oppose the appointment of Leo Keeler, who has been billed as one will place subsistence or food on table secondary to viewing and tourism. We cannot support the appointment of Mr. Keeler, when he does not understand the needs of our people in rural Alaska, other than his efforts to sell his photographs who may buy up his pictures of wolves.

**Subject: Leo Keeler**

**Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 14:10:34 -0900**

**From: "John A. Morrison" <jmorrison@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Rick\_Halford@legis.state.ak.us**

dear Senator Halford: The Daily News indicated that the legislature will act today on the nomination of Leo Keeler to membership on the Board of Game. I urge you to oppose confirming him in that position. Keeler is just a stooge for the governor's anti-spothunting agenda. Keeler has falsely claimed to be a "hunter" and a "wildlife photographer." He is not a hunter in the true sense of the word. He is a member of the animal rights activists crowd and is an employee of the U.S. Forest Service, which agency has played a major role in the federal subsistence program's interference with the state's right to manage its wildlife according to our constitution and statutes. Keeler's association with the governor, with the anti-hunters, and with the federal government would compromise his voting pattern on the board. We don't need a fifth-columnist on that board catering to the anti-hunters and the federal subsistence board. Keeler would be a disaster to the interests of all Alaskans who want honest, fair, competent, realistic wildlife management policies and practices.

John A. Morrison  
Anchorage

March 6, 2000

I oppose

Mr. Keeler's appointment  
being confirmed as a member  
of the Alaska Game Board.

Barbara J. 'Jamie' Miller

fax

8667-547-749

FROM

2-06-1997 2:18AM

P.1

## National Audubon Society



## ALASKA STATE OFFICE

308 G Street, Suite 217

Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel: (907) 276-7034

Fax: (907) 276-5069

March 7, 2000

Members  
Joint House & Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska Legislature  
Juneau, AK  
FAX 465-4928

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of Alaska Audubon, we recommend that your committee support confirmation of Mr. Leo Keeler as a member of the Alaska Board of Game. We believe that Mr. Keeler represents a large number of Alaskans' interests in wildlife management. Mr. Keeler is a professional wildlife photographer, wildlife watcher, and hunter. Although Mr. Keeler would surely represent a minority perspective on the board, his participation would ensure that many Alaskans would have representation in the important Board of Game decision making process.

The mission of Alaska Audubon is to conserve our natural ecosystems focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Alaska Audubon has over 2,300 Alaska members in chapters based in Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kodiak. Our membership has a strong interest in the management of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley E. Senner".

Stanley E. Senner  
Executive Director

VIA FAX

March 6, 2000

Dear Members of the House Resource Committee:

I understand that you have decided to consider the Governor's nomination of Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game today, instead of waiting until the end of the session. I write to support Leo Keeler's nomination to the Board of Game.

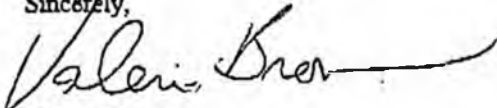
Despite the fact that the Board of Game determines policy for all wildlife management in Alaska, almost all representatives have been hunters and trappers. Most of those representatives have been strongly in favor of providing the most intense human use as possible of a few species, even when this use has included extreme measures such as the killing of predators to artificially enhance prey species.

The Board has repeatedly been responsive only to one segment of the people in Alaska interested in wildlife issues. Expansion of representation on the Board of Game to include the views of other Alaskans is well over due. While Leo Keeler is a hunter, he is also a wildlife photographer. I believe he is interested in many uses of wildlife and in many species of wildlife, including bears and wolves.

Biologists have long attempted to understand how wildlife populations fluctuate in response to natural conditions and human actions. Biology can help set parameters on how much hunting can be sustained by a given population. However, issues like allocation of wildlife to specific uses and the killing of predators has always been and will always be political. The political body that makes such determinations must represent more than just a minority of the public interested in wildlife issues.

In the past, politics has been used to exclude Board of Game members who disagree with the political policies of the majority of the Board. The timing of this committee's consideration of Mr. Keeler indicates that this hearing might be another such attempt. I urge you to support Mr. Keeler's nomination to the Alaska Board of Game. The Board of Game process can only benefit from broadening its representation of Alaskan interests.

Sincerely,



Valerie Brown  
P.O. Box 201473  
Anchorage, AK 99520-1473  
272-4544

FROM : SUPER 8 MOTEL FAIRBANKS

PHONE NO. : 907+451+8888

Mar. 06 2000 08:16AM P1

FAX TO JOINT SENATE-HOUSE RESOURCES Committee

3-6-00

Re: Keeler Appointment  
Hearing 3:00PM

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am a 32 year Alaska resident who has been a licensed active hunter for each of those years.

I support the appointment of Leo Keeler to the State Board of Game because I know him to be knowledgeable about wildlife, and willing to listen and fairly evaluate all points of view regarding difficult wildlife management issues.

Leo, a hunter himself, brings to the Board process a background that recognizes that there are many other valid uses of wildlife in the state.

Having served on the Board of Game for over 13 years (1977-1990), I believe that in order for the Board to be effective it must have a balance of interests and demonstrate an open, inclusive public process.

Leo Keeler will further this goal and be a valuable asset to responsible wildlife management.

Joel Bennett  
15255 Point Louisa Road  
Niasus 99801

DATE: Monday, March 6, 2000

TO: Joint meeting of House and Senate Resources Committees

FROM: Gerald R. Brookman, 715 Muir Avenue, Kenai, Alaska 99611-8816

REGARDING: Nomination of Leo Keeler to Board of Game

I understand that the House and Senate Resources Committees are meeting in joint session at 3:00 P.M. today to consider the nomination of Leo Keeler to the Board of Game. I would like to make the following comments on this matter.

1.) I do not understand the big rush here. I believe that this matter should be given full consideration, with an opportunity for public testimony from all teleconference locations in the state at which Alaskans desire to do so.

2.) I understand that the Governor's nomination of ME. Keeler is controversial, and some members of the legislature would appear to have decided against his confirmation before hearing from him or from the public. I urge you to keep an open mind on this matter.

3.) I believe that Mr. Keeler would bring the kind of balance to the board of game that it needs, and does not have now. I urge you to vote IN FAVOR of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald R. Brookman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Gerald R. Brookman".

March 6, 2000

Alaska Legislature  
Confirmation to Board of Game


Two whom it may concern,

We, as the Nushagak Advisory Committee, do support Bob Churchill to the confirmation to the Board of Game. We feel that his commitment during his tenure with the Anchorage Advisory Committee and the Board of Game has benefitted not only his constituents, but we as those who rely on game for subsistence, food, sport, etc, and to improve our quality of life. His background, his experience with game related matters more than qualify him for his role on the Board of Game.

Game Management Areas are increasingly subject to more hunting pressure by means and methods. Predator control is an unpopular issue, but needs to be addressed. We believe that the state should manage GMU's for high consumptive use. Federal regulations dictate rural priority for subsistence on Federal Lands. Bob Churchill has seen change, he has proven that he can take a stand on issues, he is a wealth of knowledge, his experience more than qualifies him for his reconfirmation to the Board of Game.

We as the Nushagak Advisory Committee do encourage you to reconfirm Bob Churchill to the State Board of Game. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,



Hans Nicholson  
Chairman-Nushagak Advisory Committee  
PO Box 163  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
907-842-2275

Subject: Keeler  
Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 13:35:50 -0900  
From: Carl Jack <cjack@ruralcap.com>  
To: "'Juli Lucky'" <Juli\_Lucky@legis.state.ak.us>

Please pass this message to the Senator. I am not supporting Keeler to be appointed to Alaska Board of Game. Thank you.

Carl Jack  
Director, Subsistence & Natural Resources Dept.  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Submitted by  
Michael HeKkers  
5200 N. Douglas Hwy  
#B  
Juneau, AK  
99801

**Keeler good for Game Board**

I want to comment on the recent article about the governor's decision to appoint Leo Keeler to the Board of Game as well as the governor's announcement that he will not pursue predator control unless there is clear public support and sound science.

On behalf of the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, I support the governor's appointment of Leo Keeler to the Board of Game in the interest of the governor's continued initiative to provide a more balanced Board of Game. AWRTA is a non-profit trade association that promotes the recognition and protection of Alaska's recreation and tourism resources and the businesses that rely on them. AWRTA's mission is to support the stewardship of the wild in Alaska and the development of healthy, diverse travel businesses and communities by linking business, community and conservation interests. AWRTA represents more than 300 businesses and individuals across the state and nation.

The Board of Game is a critical forum, and by statute must represent a diversity of perspectives. Alaska is a broad and diverse state, and boards can function well only when there is thorough debate and public credibility.

I believe Leo Keeler will be able to represent wildlife issues in Alaska as well as bring diversity to the Board of Game. In recognition of his dedication to wildlife and tourism issues, Leo was recently awarded AWRTA's 2000 "Ginny Hill Wood" Award for outstanding tourism service. This selection is made by the entire AWRTA Board of Directors from membership nominations and is awarded to a key visitor industry representative during AWRTA's annual Ecotourism conference.

AWRTA supports the governor's initiative to bring balance and credibility to the Board of Game through nominations of key people who can represent the interests surrounding wildlife which include hunting, wildlife viewing, recreation and tourism pursuits. To add diversity and balance to the Board of Game is only a positive endeavor as this board tackles issues and valid uses that deeply affect so many Alaskan residents and businesses.

— Sarah Leonard, executive director  
Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association

### Knowles makes good choice

I was very happy to read in Friday's paper about Gov. Tony Knowles' decision to appoint Leo Keeler of Anchorage to the Board of Game.

Gov. Knowles' choice recognizes that the values and uses of wildlife in Alaska are diverse and that the composition of the Board of Game needs to better reflect that diversity. Mr. Keeler is a hunter as well as a respected wildlife photographer and small-business owner. He is also a strong proponent of wildlife viewing opportunities. The governor's decision recognizes the vital role of non-consumptive uses of wildlife to Alaska's economic and environmental health.

According to the Alaska Division of Tourism, Alaska's tourism industry creates more jobs for Alaskans than any other and is second in revenues only to oil. Visitor statistics also show that it depends very heavily on the promise and availability of wildlife viewing opportunities.

Gov. Knowles' decision indicates his appreciation of the fact that wildlife management in Alaska, and Alaska's economic, social and environmental future, must be based on long-term conservation of all wildlife species, both game and nongame. It also reflects the governor's commitment to sound, ecosystem-based science and a more inclusive public process in the management of Alaska's wildlife.

— Kenny Powers  
Anchorage

### **Keeler will balance board**

I was very pleased to read that the governor has stepped in to restore some balance to the Board of Game with the appointment of Leo Keeler.

The Board of Game has to deal with many controversial issues. A board that lacks representation from the large section of the Alaska population that values wildlife viewing risks its credibility.

Recent decisions such as the board's authorization of a moose hunt along the wildlife viewing trails of Chugach Park (a hunt clearly opposed by the community, adjoining neighborhoods and the Chugach Park Advisory Board) damages the public's confidence in the board's ability to deal fairly with larger issues.

The hunting community should realize that increased confidence in the fairness of the board process will help resolve some of Alaska's complicated hunting issues.

I think the governor has taken a major step to improve the Board of Game and restore public confidence. I hope the hunting community and the Legislature have the wisdom to support this appointment. The decision of a board that does not fairly represent the views of Alaskans will always be suspect and lack broad public support.

— Douglas and Linda Donegan  
Anchorage

### **Reduce hunters, not wolves**

I have never written a letter to the editor, but I cannot listen to this talk of killing wolves to increase the moose and caribou populations any longer without speaking out. I have one question for the Board of Game. If the wolves are killing all the moose and caribou, why were there any in Alaska at all when the first settlers moved up here?

It seems to me that over the thousands of years before we got here, they would have wiped them all out. All we would have found was a land full of hungry wolves. It should be obvious to anyone that hunters are killing too many each year.

I have no problem with people who really need the meat to go out and hunt, but those who spend hundreds of dollars to fly into the Bush to hunt and kill a moose or caribou don't really need the meat to live. They can obviously afford to go to the store and buy their meat. The only reasonable way to "manage a sustained harvest" is to reduce the amount of hunters, not the amount of wolves.

— Robert Pessa  
Wasilla

### Caution prudent on wolf issue

I applaud the governor's stand to study the wolf situation first, rather than automatically killing them with our tax dollars. There are far too many unknown factors. In a Daily News article on Hillside moose numbers, biologists counted 30 percent fewer moose and are "baffled" why the usually hardy cows are missing ("Hillside moose tally falls," Dec. 26, 1999).

The Fort Richardson moose population is still recovering from the 45 percent die-off in 1994-1995. All this in a small study area, with no hunting, few predators, and a known tally of car accidents.

We need to study more. In McGrath, how many guided hunts take meat Outside? What percentage of cows are killed? As for Cantwell hunters' complaints, what effect do the hordes of snowmachiners have on animals? If a small percentage harass and stress an animal, wouldn't that animal be more prone to energy depletion and death or avoiding the area? Snowmachine stress has to be studied.

Many Alaskans have no faith in the Board of Game and have been forced to resort to ballot initiatives. Juneau lawmakers are currently trying to completely stop citizen ballot initiatives concerning wildlife, so all the power will rest with them alone. It is time for the Legislature to stop pretending they are wildlife experts and drop their heavy-handed habits. The voters are watching!

— Lenore Morford  
Chugiak

### Wolves part of natural balance

How unbalanced do we want our environment to become?

Kudos to everyone who has not yet tried to exterminate Alaska's wolves. They must be aware of the devastation caused by ordinary white-tailed deer in Lower 48 yards.

Ecological niches formerly occupied by wolves were filled, not surprisingly, by coyotes. Coyotes' gastronomy features small mammals and birds. Wolves control infirm and weak caribou all year long. Hunters kill trophy stags only seasonally. It has been objected that wolves kill caribou calves. Unlike man, they do not stock freezers with meat. Nothing goes to waste.

Like wolves shot by hunters who use aircraft, Arctic terns bulldozed from airport parking lots and Canada geese terminated by egg collectors are unlikely to return. What will replace them? Those feral cats that patrol bird feeders? Clouds of insects? Herbicides? Pesticides? Villages with contaminated water tables?

Those in favor of "wolf control" should seriously consider returning to the Lower 48 to decide how to handle all those surplus coyotes and deer and herbicides and pesticides and cancer and overpopulation and ... Yankees, go home, please.

— Dagmar Nye  
Anchorage

### Trophy hunting lacks sense

Thank you, Gov. Tony Knowles, for doing the right thing in McGrath. Paneloads of trophy hunters from all over the nation flock to McGrath to kill moose during hunting season.

Outside hunters come with their expensive clothes and equipment and spend thousands of dollars for the experience of killing an Alaska animal. A small group of radical McGrath residents who want the wolves killed also thrive financially by this unnecessary killing. McGrath editorials fail to mention this well-kept local secret.

Stop the trophy hunting and allow only subsistence hunting. Common sense tells us this alone will increase the moose populations.

— Lilly Wold,  
Anchorage

### Game board stuck in the past

Let's drag the Board of Game into the 21st century! Granted, it's going to be about as easy as dragging an old railway tie through a swamp, but a board stuck two centuries back makes no sense. Gov. Tony Knowles is trying hard to make the board's composition more representative of all Alaska, and deserves our support.

— Alan Seegert  
Denali National Park

### Predator ideas out of touch

Well, it looks as though the Board of Game and the Legislature have left the 20th century behind. Unfortunately, their thinking is rooted in the 19th, not the 21st. What I'd like to know is where is my representation?

I'm not a hunter. Well over 50 percent of us in the state are not hunters — in fact, I doubt they add up to even 25 percent. How much representation do non-hunters have on the board? Zero. This is not a representative public forum. I would advocate that Gov. Tony Knowles not only appoint one lone voice for non-consumptive use, but that he force the board to reflect the values of the majority.

It gets old to see that the board has gone off in left field again and there is no way for those of us who oppose these policies to get any attention. The Legislature goes out of its way to take away our avenues of traditional democracy. They allow only one-sided appointments to the board, they try to take away our right to petition on wildlife issues, and now they want to amend the Constitution to somehow silence us.

With no way to have a voice, the only recourse will be an old-fashioned Boston Tea Party. We can always dump e-mail and letters across the nation: "Alaska condones gunning down predators so people can find it easier to gun down big game. Please boycott tourism here." Is that what they want?

— William Hersman  
Anchorage

Letters  
to the  
Editor

# Anchorage Daily News

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Letters Published  
Monday  
March 6, 2000

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## Greed threatens Alaska habitat

[\[Top\]](#) | [\[Next\]](#)

Since I moved to Alaska, about three years ago, I have struggled to grasp how the minds of many people in this state perceive the diverse wildlife and fabulous wilderness that can be found in no other place on Earth.

State legislators debate the most efficient ways to kill wolves and even bears. Kill these magnificent creatures so there will be even more moose and caribou for hunters to kill. I guess it is not satisfying enough to hunt down and kill the moose and caribou that survive the motor vehicle massacre of the road system. Then, many of these same people who can't seem to satisfy their appetite for killing turn their attention to destroying habitat and fouling wilderness by building more roads and tearing through more habitat areas with snowmachines and four-wheelers. Again, these people who derive so much pleasure from killing and destroying earn their money to buy their weapons and toys of destruction from cutting down trees and ripping resources from the earth and ocean.

What is being done to this beautiful state in the name of greed and pleasure is criminal and should be treated as any other crime. If it were not for the courageous heroes in the environmental groups and their sister agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, etc., which work diligently to counter the destruction by these people, Alaska would look like any other state that has been ruined by people of this same mentality.

- Carrie Snowden-Markley

Kasilof

**Letters  
to the  
Editor**

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# Anchorage Daily News

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**Letters Published  
Monday  
March 6, 2000**

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## **Denali wolves need protection**

[\[Top\]](#) | [\[Next\]](#)

While it is a shame that the Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee has disbanded, it is also a shame that those who served on it don't know the facts about hunting and trapping in Denali National Park and Preserve. Former member Armeda Bullard recently said that wolves are protected on 6 million acres of the park. Park biologist Gordon Olson also implied this in a CBS news story covering the Toklat wolves.

Wolves may be trapped on 4 million of the 6 million acres of the park, with liberal seasons and no bag limits. This is allowed under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Heavy trapping also occurs on state land surrounding the park.

There are an estimated 50 to 70 wolves in Denali National Park and Preserve. The Toklat and Sanctuary groups make up the bulk of, if not all, wolf sightings by visitors. The Toklats were reduced to just two adults in 1998. The Sanctuary pack, once numbering 15, is down to three members. Three pups were recently trapped by a National Park Service employee less than one mile from the park boundary.

I ask people who oppose wolf protection to keep in mind how disenfranchised are those of us who do not view wildlife as just "food." Though wildlife is a resource for the benefit of all Alaskans, we cannot even get a handful of wolves protected.

- Karen Deatherage

Anchorage

### Base wolf plan on science

As an Alaska hunter and a wildlife biologist, I support Gov. Tony Knowles' delay of the proposed state-managed wolf killing programs ("Knowles won't OK wolf kill," Feb. 25).

Effective wildlife management cannot be legislated. It can come only through observation, good science and understanding. The Legislature's bullying tactics — i.e., the "intensive management" law, four bills mandating unreasoned but widespread wolf killing and a spiteful and childish threat to cut the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's budget and the commissioner's paycheck if he and his agency don't kowtow to the legislators' whims — only serve to obscure good principles and confound Alaska's future. The governor's call for a secure basis and understanding of our management principles is a step out of the shadows.

Rounding out the Board of Game with a member representing hunting, subsistence and nonconsumptive wildlife values is another move forward.

Leo Keeler, whom the governor has selected for the open board position, is a hunter and photographer and longtime Alaskan who embodies the combination that so many of us share. His appointment would be a strike against the categorization of interests and the quarrels that result and a move to reunite Alaskans in their enjoyment of this wild and natural world.

— Jeff Fair  
Anchorage

**Date:** 2/26/2000 11:36 AM  
**From:** Stewart, Sylvia  
**To:** "Mat-Su Legislative Information Office" <MatSu\_LIO@legis.matsc.ak.us>  
**Subject:** Wolf Population & Knowles  
Greetings,

I am very concerned at the direction of the state in regards to the protection of the wolf population. It disheartens me to read Knowles statements regarding "a new era of wildlife management", that we should "protect wolf populations that are valuable for wildlife viewing" and that the Alaska Board of Game "needs to represent broader interests" so he is appointing a wildlife photographer.

Knowles does not have the interests of the State of Alaska in his plans, he seems to have the interests of the environmental groups and their financial support more in his view. What can we do, other than contacting you, to get our voices heard. The wolf population all over the state is growing by leaps and bounds and the game population is crashing.

I heard from a man who had done some research in the Mat-Su Valley regarding the wolf population. He counted 140 wolf in the valley. Before Knowles term, there were about 30-40 wolf in the valley. I don't know all the facts, but he said that each pack needs something like 1 1/2 moose every other day to sustain the pack. My memory may be all wrong there, but it left me awestruck when he figured it out to how many moose one pack needs each year to sustain the members. It was incredible. If Knowles continues to stall and the wolf population is allowed to continue growing at its present rate, in a few years, the house pets, farm animals and even small children in villages will suffer the consequences. I think time for action has long past.

I am not a hunter, just a concerned citizen. Knowles policy of ousting Churchill for a photographer, and protecting the wolf and ignoring the livelihood and safety of people and communities appalls me and frightens me. Do we give up all reason to protect animals over people?

Respectfully,  
Sylvia Stewart  
P.O. Box 874175  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
907-376-6468



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 / unire@akvoice.org

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TO: Senate and House Resource Committee Members  
DATE: March 6, 2000  
RE: Confirmation Hearing for Board of Game Appointee Leo Keeler

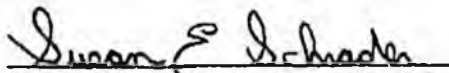
Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters are sister nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 40 member organizations represent over 21,000 registered Alaskan voters. Our members can be found in all user groups of Alaska's wildlife, including subsistence users, recreational hunters, wildlife viewers, and photographers. We respect and appreciate the long, rich tradition held by Alaskans, Native and non-Native alike, that surrounds our state's wildlife resources. We also acknowledge that opportunities to use and appreciate our wildlife belong to all Americans and to visitors to our state from other countries.

On March 1, 2000, during the House Resources Committee hearing on HJR 56, several Representatives spoke to the open and fair process that the legislature provides on issues of wildlife management through its own public hearing process, its confirmation process for Board of Game appointees, and its process of setting policy for the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game.

However, by scheduling a confirmation hearing for Leo Keeler, the Governor's most recent appointee to the Board of Game, with barely one business days' worth of public notice, the legislators have exhibited a profound disrespect for the public process. As a hunter and wildlife photographer, Mr. Keeler brings outstanding credentials to the Board of Game. Further, his interest in nonconsumptive use of wildlife clearly reflects the values that the majority of Alaskans hold for this resource. Mr. Keeler, as a private citizen who is volunteering his time and expertise, deserves the courtesy of being allowed to complete his participation in the current round of board meetings before being pre-judged by the legislature.

Because wildlife in Alaska belongs to everyone, our state law requires the Board of Game to have a diversity of perspective (AS 16.05.221). Mr. Keeler is an excellent choice to provide that diversity. To rush his confirmation hearing and to consider holding a joint Senate and House floor vote on his confirmation on March 8<sup>th</sup> is nothing less than an abuse of power and an affront to all the Alaskans who are trying to work constructively to achieve a more balanced, far-sighted approach to wildlife management.

Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters truly hope that those legislators who have expressed support for a fair and open public process will realize that this biased reaction to Leo Keeler's appointment is a total contradiction to the reasoned approach our legislative leaders should be exhibiting on the issue of wildlife management.

  
Susan E. Schrader, Conservation Advocate

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

To: Senator Rick Halford  
Juneau, AK  
Fax# 907 465 4928

3/7/00

From: Joe Mattie  
Box 18 Ester Ak. 99725  
Fax# 907 479 0890

Ref: appointment of Leo Keeler to BOG

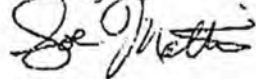
Having attended the entire March 2000 Board of Game meetings to date and observing the performance of Mr. Leo Keeler, my opinion is as follows:

Mr. Keeler does not possess the background knowledge nor does he seem to have even a basic understanding of the issues the Board is dealing with. His questions to people giving testimony were either irrelevant or leading to debate, neither of which appropriate for these meetings.

In my opinion, he should no be confirmed.

In the future, it might be helpful if appointees to the Board of Game have some amount of similar experience. Perhaps Fish & Game Advisory Committee experience would be one example.

Thank you,



Joe Mattie

Dear Senator Halford -

I strongly oppose  
Leo Keeler being  
on the Board of  
Game. His "Buffer  
Zone" is a bad idea,  
even the Feds think  
so.

Sincerely

Alan C Jones

Box 70683

Fairbanks 99707

479-5458

Carol T. Torsen  
1558 Thuja Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99507-4122  
[Ctorsen@alaska.net](mailto:Ctorsen@alaska.net) 907-344-5956

March 6, 2000

Senator Rick Halford  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA FAX: 907-465-4928

REF: Leo Keeler Appointment to Board of Game

Dear Senator Halford:

Please do not support the appointment of Leo Keeler to the Board of Game. His appointment can only be detrimental to those of us who use wildlife for food, and other consumptive uses.

Mr. Keeler just proposed closing a half million acres around Denali Park to the hunting and trapping of wolves; therefore, is probably not a good choice for the Board of Game. The National Park Service has also come out in opposition to that proposal.

I therefore urge you not to support Mr. Keeler's appointment.

Sincerely,



Carol Torsen