

HB

163

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

HB163
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March 5, 2003

The Honorable Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Kott:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that raises additional revenues for fish and wildlife management programs in Alaska.

Alaska's fish and wildlife is a public resource enjoyed by a variety of users from hunters, trappers and anglers to wildlife viewers, many of whom travel to Alaska to utilize our abundant resources. This legislation ensures that the cost of wildlife management is shared more broadly with those who use and enjoy our wildlife, and that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the resources necessary to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

Under this bill, wildlife viewers using certain commercial services will be required to help support management of Alaska's wildlife by purchasing a \$15 annual "wildlife conservation pass" unless they hold another qualifying license or permit. Funds generated will be deposited into a separate account of the general fund and may be used for wildlife management, research, education, and viewing programs.

Alaska is a world class visitor destination, and viewing wildlife is one of the primary visitor attractions. The abundance of wildlife throughout the state provides tremendous economic development opportunities. These user funds will help support wildlife management programs and in so doing will support Alaska's growing tourism industry. Funds from this bill will be used in part to match new federal dollars Alaska is receiving through the State Wildlife Grants Program.

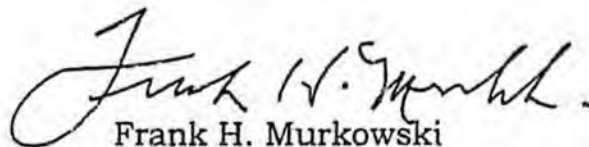
The Honorable Pete Kott
March 5, 2003
Page 2

This bill also raises the big game tag fees for non-resident and non-resident alien hunters to harvest caribou, moose, goats, and sheep. These increases bring Alaska's fees in line with fees charged in a number of other Western states for these or similar species. In general, hunters visiting our state are more oriented to a recreational experience than Alaska residents and it is important that they support the wildlife management that helps make these resources available.

The fees in this legislation will enhance revenues for a diversity of wildlife management programs. I urge your prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

23-GH1098VD
Utermohle
3/18/03

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 163(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to an annual wildlife conservation pass; relating to nonresident and**
2 **nonresident alien big game tag fees; relating to a false statement or omission on an**
3 **application for a license, tag, permit, or wildlife conservation pass issued by the**
4 **Department of Fish and Game; and providing for an effective date."**

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 *** Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
7 to read:

8 **FINDINGS.** The legislature finds that

9 (1) the opportunity to view wildlife is a unique and deeply valued part of the
10 experience of living and traveling in this state;

11 (2) the State of Alaska appropriates significant financial resources each year
12 for the purposes of wildlife management;

13 (3) a large portion of the financial resources expended by the state to maintain
14 healthy populations of wildlife directly benefits nonresidents who view wildlife;

1 (4) the \$15 fee charged to nonresidents for an annual wildlife conservation
 2 pass is less than or equal to Alaska residents' pro rata share of state revenue that is devoted to
 3 wildlife-related matters associated with nonconsumptive uses of fish and wildlife, including
 4 wildlife viewing;

5 (5) existing law requires hunters, fisherman, and other consumptive users of
 6 fish and wildlife to obtain the appropriate licenses and to pay the associated fees;

7 (6) existing law does not assess a fee for nonconsumptive uses of wildlife such
 8 as wildlife viewing;

9 (7) the opportunity to view wildlife is a significant component of the
 10 experience enjoyed by many Alaskans and visitors through the use of commercial guides,
 11 outfitters, tour operators, and providers of transportation in settings where wildlife is present;

12 (8) nonresidents who do not obtain a hunting or fishing license and employ a
 13 commercial provider for an opportunity to view wildlife should bear their fair share of the
 14 cost of wildlife management in this state.

15 * Sec. 2. AS 16.05.340(a)(15) is amended to read:

16 (15) Nonresident big game tags

17 A nonresident may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a
 18 numbered, nontransferable, appropriate tag, issued under this paragraph. The tag must
 19 be affixed to the animal immediately upon capture and must remain affixed until the
 20 animal is prepared for storage, consumed, or exported. A tag issued but not used for
 21 an animal may be used to satisfy the tagging requirement for an animal of any other
 22 species for which the tag fee is of equal or less value.

- 23 (A) Bear, black, each \$225
- 24 (B) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 500
- 25 (C) Bison, each 450
- 26 (D) Caribou, each 400 [325]
- 27 (E) Deer, each 150
- 28 (F) Elk, each 300
- 29 (G) Goat, each 400 [300]
- 30 (H) Moose, each 450 [400]
- 31 (I) Sheep, each 500 [425]

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(J) Wolf, each 30

A nonresident is not required to have a nonresident wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit.

(K) Wolverine, each 175

(L) Musk oxen, each 1,100

* Sec. 3. AS 16.05.340(a)(21) is amended to read:

(21) Nonresident alien big game tags

(A) Bear, black, each \$300

(B) Bear, brown or grizzly, each 650

(C) Bison, each 650

(D) Caribou, each 500 [425]

(E) Deer, each 200

(F) Elk, each 400

(G) Goat, each 500 [400]

(H) Moose, each 550 [500]

(I) Musk oxen, each 1,500

(J) Sheep, each 625 [550]

(K) Wolf, each 50

A nonresident alien is not required to have a nonresident alien wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit.

(L) Wolverine, each 250

* Sec. 4. AS 16.05.350(a) is amended to read:

(a) Licenses, permits, [AND] tags, and the wildlife conservation pass required under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430, except biennial licenses, triennial licenses, the nonresident sport fishing licenses, the resident trapping license, the nonresident anadromous king salmon tags, the waterfowl conservation tag, and permits having a different specified expiration date, expire at the close of December 31 following

1 issuance.

2 * Sec. 5. AS 16.05.360(a) is amended to read:

3 (a) The commissioner or an authorized deputy shall issue each license, [AND]
4 tag, and wildlife conservation pass to a qualified person under written application
5 containing such reasonable information as required by the commissioner. The
6 commissioner shall designate the license, [AND] tag, and wildlife conservation pass
7 form or type. For purposes of the issuance of licenses and tags, the [THE] form or
8 type must be sufficient to identify and locate the applicant and establish the applicant's
9 status as to residency and citizenship. Each application shall be subscribed by the
10 applicant.

11 * Sec. 6. AS 16.05.380 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 16.05.380. Commissioner may appoint agents.** The commissioner may
13 appoint state employees or other persons to take applications, issue licenses, permits,
14 [AND] tags, and the wildlife conservation pass, and collect fees. The commissioner
15 is not liable for defalcation or failure to account for the fees collected by any person so
16 appointed, but the commissioner shall require a bond in an adequate sum, conditioned
17 upon faithfully accounting for all money collected. However, the commissioner may
18 waive the bond requirements for the Alaska marine highway system and the
19 Alaska Railroad Corporation or for [OF] an instrumentality of the United States or
20 its agents and employees when the instrumentality or its agents or employees sell
21 licenses, permits, [OR] tags, or the wildlife conservation pass primarily to persons in
22 the armed forces. Each person, upon appointment by the commissioner, may
23 administer oaths on applications for licenses, permits, [AND] tags, and the wildlife
24 conservation pass.

25 * Sec. 7. AS 16.05.390(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) Except as provided in (e) of this section, the Alaska marine highway
27 system, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, or an agent appointed by the
28 commissioner under AS 16.05.380 to sell licenses, permits, [AND] tags, and the
29 wildlife conservation pass is entitled to

30 (1) retain five percent of the fee that is charged for a license, permit,
31 [OR] tag, or wildlife conservation pass or 25 cents for each license, permit, [OR] tag,

1 or wildlife conservation pass sold, whichever is greater; and

2 (2) compensation of \$50 per year or \$1 for each license, permit, [OR]
3 tag, or wildlife conservation pass sold during the year, whichever is greater.

4 * Sec. 8. AS 16.05.390(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) Each agent appointed to sell licenses, permits, [OR] tags, or the wildlife
6 conservation pass under AS 16.05.380 shall, as directed by the commissioner,
7 transmit the proceeds from the sales of licenses, permits, [AND] tags, and the wildlife
8 conservation pass, except the amount authorized to be retained under (a)(1) of this
9 section, together with a report of the sales, to the commissioner for deposit in the fish
10 and game fund or the general fund.

11 * Sec. 9. AS 16.05.390(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) On March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year the
13 commissioner shall calculate the compensation earned by an agent under (a)(2) of this
14 section, minus the penalties assessed under (g) of this section. If the compensation
15 due exceeds \$50, the commissioner shall pay the compensation not later than 30 days
16 after the date for which the compensation was calculated. If the compensation due is
17 \$50 or less, the commissioner shall pay the compensation not later than January 30 of
18 the year following the year in which the compensation was earned. The commissioner
19 shall pay compensation only for sales of licenses, permits, [OR] tags, or the wildlife
20 conservation pass for which the commissioner has received the report and proceeds
21 required to be transmitted under (b) of this section.

22 * Sec. 10. AS 16.05.390(e) is amended to read:

23 (e) The provisions of (a) of this section do not apply to a state employee
24 appointed by the commissioner under AS 16.05.380 to sell licenses, permits, [AND]
25 tags, and the wildlife conservation pass.

26 * Sec. 11. AS 16.05.390(f) is amended to read:

27 (f) Proceeds and reports under (b) of this section shall be transmitted to the
28 commissioner by the last day of the month following the month in which the licenses,
29 permits, [AND] tags, and the wildlife conservation passes are sold, unless an
30 alternative reporting schedule has been established by contract.

31 * Sec. 12. AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **Sec. 16.05.417. Wildlife conservation pass.** (a) Without having a valid
2 wildlife conservation pass in actual possession, a person may not use the services of a
3 commercial provider for an opportunity to view public wildlife in this state.

4 (b) The fee for a wildlife conservation pass is \$15.

5 (c) A wildlife conservation pass is not required of

6 (1) a person under the age of 16 years;

7 (2) a resident who is 60 years of age or older and possesses a
8 permanent identification card issued under AS 16.05.400(b);

9 (3) a resident who possesses a permanent state identification card
10 issued under AS 18.65.310 or a resident who possesses a voter registration card issued
11 under AS 15.07.070, to the extent allowed by law;

12 (4) a person who possesses a valid, current year sport fishing license,
13 hunting license, trapping license, or a combination sport fishing, hunting, or trapping
14 license;

15 (5) a resident who possesses a valid commercial fishing license or
16 commercial fishing entry permit or interim-use permit;

17 (6) a resident who is a disabled veteran qualified to receive a free
18 hunting and sport fishing license under AS 16.05.341;

19 (7) a resident traveling on the Alaska marine highway system or the
20 Alaska Railroad;

21 (8) a person who is currently employed, and has verifiable proof of
22 employment, in the commercial provider or transportation industry and provides direct
23 services to tourists in Alaska.

24 (d) A commercial provider for an opportunity to view public wildlife may not
25 provide service, equipment, or facilities to a person who

26 (1) is required to possess a wildlife conservation pass under this
27 section; and

28 (2) does not have a valid wildlife conservation pass in actual
29 possession.

30 (e) Fees received from the sale of wildlife conservation passes shall be
31 deposited into a separate account in the general fund. The annual balance in the

1 account may be appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of fish and game
2 management, viewing, and education programs, or for other public purposes.

3 (f) In this section,

4 (1) "commercial provider for an opportunity to view public wildlife"
5 means a person that provides to an individual, for compensation or with the intent to
6 receive compensation, touring or recreational service, equipment, or facilities in the
7 field, or transportation to or in the field related to tourism or recreation; "commercial
8 provider for an opportunity to view public wildlife" includes a person who provides
9 outfitting, guiding, sightseeing, flightseeing, rafting, kayaking, touring, accompanied
10 hiking, bus and motorcoach service, cruise ship or charter service, railroad
11 transportation, or a similar opportunity for viewing public wildlife;

12 (2) "commercial provider industry" means those businesses that
13 provide services, equipment, and facilities as a commercial provider for an opportunity
14 to view public wildlife;

15 (3) "field" means

16 (A) an area in this state outside of

17 (i) established year-round dwellings, businesses, or
18 other developments usually associated with a city, town, or village;

19 (ii) permanent hotels or roadhouses on the state road
20 system or state or federally maintained airports;

21 (B) an area in this state used for public wildlife viewing within
22 or near a city, town, village, or year-round dwellings; and

23 (C) the territorial sea and internal waters of this state;

24 (4) "public wildlife" means fish and game;

25 (5) "transportation" means the carriage of persons by railroad,
26 automobile, bus, motorcoach, taxi, boat, ferry, snowmobile, cruise ship, air taxi,
27 aircraft, or another mode of transport; "transportation" does not include

28 (A) carriage by aircraft on nonstop flights between airports
29 listed in the Alaska supplement to the Airmen's Guide published by the Federal
30 Aviation Administration; or

31 (B) a method of transportation determined by the commissioner

1 by regulation not to have a significant opportunity for public wildlife viewing.

2 * Sec. 13. AS 16.05.420 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 16.05.420. License, tag, [AND] permit, and pass violations.** (a) A false
4 statement of a material fact in an application for a license, tag, [OR] permit, or
5 wildlife conservation pass issued under AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430 voids the license,
6 tag, [OR] permit, or wildlife conservation pass for which the application is made.

7 (b) A person may not make a false statement, or omit a material fact, in an
8 application for a license, tag, [OR] permit, or wildlife conservation pass issued under
9 AS 16.05.330 - 16.05.430. A person who without any culpable mental state makes a
10 false statement as to the person's identity or residency in an application for a license,
11 tag, [OR] permit, or wildlife conservation pass issued under AS 16.05.330 -
12 16.05.430 is guilty of a violation and upon conviction is punishable by a fine of not
13 more than \$300. A person who knowingly violates this subsection is guilty of a class
14 A misdemeanor. In this subsection, "knowingly" has the meaning given in AS
15 11.81.900.

16 (c) A person to whom a license, [OR] tag, or wildlife conservation pass has
17 been issued under this chapter may not alter, change, loan, or transfer the license or
18 tag. A person may not use a license, [OR] tag, or wildlife conservation pass that has
19 been issued under this chapter to another person.

20 * Sec. 14. Sections 2 and 3 of this Act take effect January 1, 2004.

21 * Sec. 15. Except as provided in sec. 14 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2003.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: HB 163
 (H) Publish Date: 3/5/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Annual wildlife conservation pass and BRU Wildlife Conservation (147)
nonresident big game tag fee increase Component CARA Implementation
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 2564

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	70.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Supplies	25.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1004)	7,500.0	7,875.0	8,269.7	8,682.4	9,116.1	9,571.9
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1024 Fish and Game Fund	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0
TOTAL	95.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0

Estimate of any current year (FY) _____ t: 30.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this _____ is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

Annual revenue estimates are based on the following assumptions:
 1) About 1.2 million nonresidents will travel to Alaska as tourists in FY04. Of these about 300,000 will purchase a hunting, fishing or trapping license and therefore would not be required to purchase an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. Of the remaining 900,000 nonresidents (some of whom are under the age of 16), we project that approximately 500,000 would purchase the pass, generating about \$7.5 million in revenue.
 2) We project that the number of pass purchasers will increase by an estimated 5% annually based on current tourism trends.

Prepared by: Matt Robus, Acting Director Phone 465-4190
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 3/6/03 10:01 AM
 Approved by: Kevin Duffy, Acting Commissioner Date 3/6/2003
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 163

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Note: The fiscal note does not include any projections of Wildlife Conservation Pass revenue related to Alaska residents as under this bill regulations exempting Alaskans will be adopted to the extent allowed by law.

The operating costs, including FY03 costs, associated with the wildlife conservation pass are for outreach to 1) prospective purchasers of the pass to inform them of these new requirements and 2) those who will be selling the passes (e.g., cruise ship companies, tour operators, etc). We expect to produce newspaper articles and radio and television public service announcements, develop fliers for vendors to post explaining the new program, a brochure describing how the funds will be used, and other materials to explain the program to vendors and participants. During the first year of implementation, costs will be significantly higher than in following years when materials have been produced and the program is in place. However, some outreach will continue to be necessary.

Note: The costs of printing the passes, administering the program, and providing compensation to vendors is included in the fiscal note submitted by the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Administrative Services.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
 Bill Version: HB 163
 (H) Publish Date: 3/5/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title Annual wildlife conservation pass and BRU Administration
nonresident big game tag fee increase Component Administration
 Sponsor Rules Committee
 Requester Governor Component No. 479

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Travel						
Contractual	555.0	570.0	596.0	623.0	653.0	683.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1024)	206.0	536.7	536.7	536.7	536.7	536.7
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Fish and Game Fund)	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0
TOTAL	575.0	590.0	616.0	643.0	673.0	703.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 35.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The number of vendors will increase since many of the tour guide operators and cruise ship companies do not currently sell licenses/tags. We will need an additional part-time employee to deal with the increase in mailings of stock to vendors, processing of revenue, and reconciliation of vendor accounts. Contractual costs are postage, printing of Pass and printing of vendor collection reports.

See Department of Fish and Game/Division of Wildlife Conservation's fiscal note for revenue projections. In addition to the contractual costs outlined above, AS16.05.390 entitles vendors to retain 5% of the fee that is charged. Retained fees the first fiscal year would be \$375.0. Net revenue would be \$7125.0.

Prepared by: Kevin Brooks, Director Phone 465-5999
 Division Administrative Services Date/Time 3/6/03 10:00 AM
 Approved by: Kevin Duffy, Acting Commissioner Date 3/6/2003
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

FISCAL NOTE # 2

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 163

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

AS16.05.390 also entitles vendors to receive \$1.00 for each pass sold. Additional compensation the first year would be \$500.0. The additional compensation is reflected in the contractual costs above.

FY03 costs will be incurred for preparation of the wildlife conservation passes and the distribution to vendors.

Note: The fiscal note does include any projections of Wildlife Conservation Pass expense related to Alaska residents as under this bill regulations exempting Alaskans will be adopted to the extent allowed by law.

Big Game Tag Fee Increase:

Assumption: The number of tag sales will remain constant.

Fish and Game Fund: The increase in Caribou, Sheep, Moose and Goat big game tags will result in a revenue increase of \$206.0 the first fiscal year based on the following: 1. Sales remain same as tags sold during January through June, 2002. The following fiscal years, the revenue increase is based on a full calendar year of tag sales, \$536.7. AS16.05.390 entitles vendors to retain 5% of the fee that is charged. Retained fees for the additional revenue raised would total \$10.3. Total revenue raised would then net the first year \$195.7. The following fiscal years, net would be \$509.9.

Contributions by hunters and anglers to fish and wildlife management

Wildlife conservation funding:

- The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act, was approved by Congress in 1937.
- The purpose of the Act is to provide funding for wildlife management research as well as restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat. The Act was amended in 1970 to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges.
- Funds are derived from an 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10% tax on handguns. These funds are collected from manufacturers by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and are apportioned each year to states on a formula basis. Funds for hunter education and target ranges are derived from one-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment.
- The apportionment formula considers the total area of the state and the number of licensed hunters in the state. States must provide at least 25 percent of project costs from a non-federal source.
- In the more than 50 years since "P-R" began, over \$2 billion in federal excise taxes have been matched by more than \$500 million in state funds (chiefly from hunting license fees) for wildlife restoration.

Sport fisheries:

- The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson (D-J) Act, passed in 1950, and was modeled after the Pittman-Robertson Act to create a parallel program for the management, conservation, and restoration of fishery resources.
- The Sport Fish Restoration program is funded by revenues collected from manufacturers of fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits, who pay an excise tax on these items to the U.S. Treasury.
- An amendment in 1984 (Wallop-Breaux Amendment) extended the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment.
- State apportionment is based 60% on its licensed anglers (fishermen) and 40% on its land and water area. No State may receive more than 5 percent or less than 1 percent of each year's total apportionment.
- In the past 50 years, the Sport Fish Restoration Act has provided over \$3.6 billion to the states to fund research and inventory projects; to build or reclaim 1,200 fishing or boating access sites; and to purchase over 260,000 acres as fishing access areas, boat landings, piers, and fish production sites.

Representative
HUGH "BUD" FATE
Chair-Resources Committee
Energy Council
119 N. Cushman St. Suite 207
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-6084
Fax: (907) 452-6096

Alaska State Legislature



While in Session
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-4976
Fax: 465-3883
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1 866-465-4976

House District 7

House of Representatives

Fax

To: Norm Gorsuch

Fax #: (907) 463-3540

Number of pages including cover: 9

Fm: Jim Pound, Chief of Staff

Cc:

Date: April 14, 2003

Re: Cs for HB 163 (RES)

Should be read across today.

The information contained in this fax is **CONFIDENTIAL** and/or privileged. This fax is intended to be reviewed initially by only the individual named above. If the reader of this transmittal page is not the intended recipient or a representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, or copying of this fax or the information contained herein is prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return this fax to the sender at the above address.

Thank you

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TO: HB 163

BY

1 Page 1, following line 11:

2 Insert new material to read:

3 "(3) a large portion of the financial resources expended by the state to maintain
4 healthy populations of wildlife directly benefits nonresidents who view wildlife;

5 (4) the \$15 fee charged for nonresident wildlife viewing is less than or equal to
6 Alaska residents' pro rata share of state revenue that is devoted to wildlife-related matters
7 associated with non-consumptive uses of fish and game, including wildlife viewing;"

8

9 Page 1, line 12:

10 Delete "(3)"

11 Insert "(5)"

12

13 Page 1, line 14:

14 Delete "(4)"

15 Insert "(6)"

16

17 Page 2, line 2:

18 Delete "(5)"

19 Insert "(7)"

20

21 Page 2, line 5:

22 Delete "(6) individuals"

23 Insert "(8) nonresidents"

1 Page 2, line 6:

2 Delete "a portion"

3 Insert "their fair share"

Proposed amendments to HB 163

Amendment 1

Page 4, Line 11-12

The commissioner, Director of the Alaska Marine Highway System and the Director of the Alaska Railroad may appoint state....

Amendment 2

Page 4, Line 17

the bond requirements for the Alaska Marine Highway System and the Alaska Railroad or of an instrumentality....

Amendment 3

Page 4, Line 24

(e) of this section, the Alaska Marine Highway System, the Alaska Railroad, or an agent appointed

Amendment 4

Page 6, Line 12

[license;] license. Fees provided for in (b) of this section shall be applied to the purchase of these licenses and by relinquishing possession of the annual wildlife conservation pass.

Amendment 5

Page 6, Line 13

(5) a [person] resident who possesses a valid,...

Amendment 6

Page 6, Line 15

(6) a [person] resident who is a disabled veteran....

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

Proposed Amendments to HB163 Page 2

Amendment 7

Page 6, Line 17

- (7) a [person] resident traveling on [a vessel of] the Alaska marine highway system[.] .or the Alaska railroad.

Amendment 8

Page 6, between Line18 and 19

- (8) a person who is currently and has verifiable proof of employment in the commercial provider or transportation industry, as provided for in (1) & (4) of this section and provides direct services to Alaska tourist.

Amendment 9

Re-number accordingly

Amendment 10

Page 7, Line 16

Taxi, boat, ferry, snowmobile, cruise ship,....

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

Background on H.B. 163 and S.B. 122: An act relating to an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass

Why a "Wildlife Conservation Pass"?

- The opportunity to view wildlife is one of the main reasons visitors come to Alaska. About 1.5 million visitors travel to Alaska each year.
- For nearly a century, hunters and anglers have borne most of the cost of wildlife management. While they are willing to pay their fair share to conserve wildlife populations, many have asked why other wildlife enthusiasts have not stepped up to the plate.
- During the last session of Congress, then-Sen. Frank Murkowski and Rep. Don Young sponsored legislation (known as "CARA") that would have provided a new stable source of funding for fish and wildlife management. In response to this proposed legislation, new federal dollars are coming to Alaska. Last year, Alaska received nearly \$4 million in new State Wildlife Grant money. This year we will receive an additional \$3 million.
- These new federal dollars generally must be matched 1:1 with state dollars. H.B. 163 and SB 122 provide a way for visitors who use and enjoy Alaska's wildlife, but do not purchase a hunting or fishing license, to help match these federal dollars and ensure that Alaska maintains healthy and productive wildlife populations.
- H.B. 163 and SB 122 require visitors who take a commercial tour to view wildlife to buy an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass. The cost of the Pass is \$15, less than the cost of 3-day nonresident sport fishing license (\$20) or a nonresident hunting license (\$85). We estimate it will raise about \$7 million in new revenue.
- Funds received from the sale of the passes will go into a special account in the general fund and may be appropriated for "fish and wildlife management, viewing, and education programs."
- The billion dollar tourism industry draws substantial revenue each year from marketing Alaska's wildlife. It's only fair that these visitors and the industry that most directly benefits from them help to sustain our fish and wildlife resources. Most visitors will be happy to know they are making a contribution to wildlife conservation in Alaska.
- One of the legislative priorities of the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) is "increased wildlife viewing opportunities." The ATIA "supports cooperative efforts to expand wildlife viewing opportunities throughout the state." These funds would enable the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to better respond to this need.