

**HB**

**208**

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  
Toll Free:  
1 866-465-4976  
House District 7

### House of Representatives

#### Sponsor Statement for HB 208

**"An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne; and providing for an effective date."**

House Bill 208 adds and deletes language from existing statute (AS 16.05.783(a) to give both the Board of Game and the Commissioner of Fish and Game a valuable tool in maintaining game populations around the state.

Currently, after complying with strict prey population standards, an authorized department employee or person may use same day airborne hunting as part of the game management program. The first change in HB 208 will essentially allow for same day airborne or aerial shooting of predators as part of human consumptive game management.

Likewise, management of game is severely restricted in an either/or situation. As an example, if the minimum game population objective is met, but the harvest level is not, a management decision cannot be made, even if it is established that predators are limiting the game population. The second change to statute allows the Board to use both objectives when determining and making recommendations to the Department.

HB 208 makes changes that will allow both the Board and the Commissioner to better manage wildlife populations in the state by reviewing the facts and balancing populations. By adding this language to existing statute, a more consistent balance of both human consumptive game and predators will be obtained.

### Additional information in support for change to AS 16.05.783

This statute sets out conditions under which same-day-airborne (SDA) hunting of wolf, wolverine, fox, or lynx hunting may occur. It contains two basic pathways for authorizing hunting of these species the same day a person has flown.

One of these allows a Department of Fish and Game employee to engage in same-day-airborne hunting if authorized to do so in the course of a game management program.

The other pathway, and the one which is the subject of this bill, allows a person to conduct SDA hunting for these species if the Commissioner of Fish and Game makes a written finding at the request of the Board of Game stating that predation is an important factor contributing to low or declining prey population levels and that a reduction in predators can be expected to help the prey population stabilize or grow.

This section of the statute mandates that the Commissioner's finding be based on "prey population objectives" established under the intensive management law. Read strictly, this allows the finding to consider only one of the two management objectives set by the Board of Game for ungulate populations identified as being important for high levels of human consumptive use. Under AS 16.05.783, only the population objective can be considered when making a finding, and in a case when the population objective is being met, but the harvest objective is not, no finding is possible. One example of where the population objective is being met but where the harvest objective is not is the moose herd in Game Management Unit 19D East in the McGrath area. For this reason it is not possible for the Commissioner to make a finding allowing SDA wolf hunting in this case, even though wolf predation has been identified as a factor limiting this herd.

The proposed modification to the statute will allow the Commissioner to consider either or both of the intensive management objectives when determining whether to make a finding to allow SDA hunting for wolves, wolverines, foxes, or lynx, or the other species covered under this law when any management objective set by the Board is not being met and predation is identified as a crucial factor.

**Additional Information**

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB 208  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title Relating to hunting on the same day BRU Wildlife Conservation  
airborne Component Wildlife Conservation  
 Sponsor Representative Fate  
 Requester House Resources Component No. 473

**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						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Matthew H. Robus, Acting Director Phone 465-4190  
 Division Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 3/27/03 11:51 AM  
 Approved by: Kevin C. Duffy, Commissioner Date 3/27/2003  
 Agency Department of Fish and Game

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  
Toll Free:  
1 866-465-4976  
House District 7

## House of Representatives

### Sponsor Statement for CS for HB 208 (RES)

**"An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne; and providing for an effective date."**

House Bill 208 adds and deletes language from existing statute (AS 16.05.783(a)) to give the Board of Game a valuable tool in maintaining game populations around the state.

Currently, after complying with strict prey population standards, an authorized department employee or person may use same day airborne hunting as part of the game management program. The first change in HB 208 will essentially allow for same day airborne or aerial shooting of predators as part of sustained yield game management.

Likewise, existing language severely restricts management of game using an either/or scenario. As an example, if the minimum game population objective is met, but the harvest level is not, a management decision cannot be made, even if it is established that predators are limiting the game population. The second change to statute allows the Board to use management objectives when determining and making recommendations.

HB 208 makes changes that will allow the Board to better manage wildlife populations in the state by reviewing the facts and balancing populations. By adding this language to existing statute, a more consistent balance of both human consumptive game and predators will be obtained.

23-LS0846Q  
Utermohle  
5/2/03

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 208(RES)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE FATE**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to predator control programs; and providing for an effective date."**

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

3 **\* Section 1.** AS 16.05.783(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) A person may not shoot or assist in shooting a free-ranging wolf or [,]  
5 wolverine [, FOX, OR LYNX] the same day that a person has been airborne.  
6 However, the Board of Game may authorize a predator control program as part of a  
7 game management plan that involves airborne or same day airborne shooting  
8 [INVOLVING SHOOTING FROM THE AIR] if

9 [(1)] the board has determined based on information provided by  
10 the department

11 (1) in regard to an identified big game prey population under  
12 AS 16.05.255(g) that [COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND GAME ACTING UNDER  
13 A REQUEST FROM THE BOARD OF GAME MAKES WRITTEN FINDINGS  
14 BASED ON PREY POPULATION] objectives set by the board for the population  
15 have not been achieved and [UNDER AS 16.05.255(g)] that

1                    [(A)] predation is an important cause for the failure to  
2                    achieve the objectives set by the board [FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO A  
3                    LOW OR DECLINING PREY POPULATION THAT IS INCONSISTENT  
4                    WITH A GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE  
5                    BOARD OF GAME], and that a reduction of predation can reasonably be  
6                    expected to aid in the achievement of the objectives [RESULT IN AIDING  
7                    AN INCREASE IN THE PREY POPULATION OR IN ARRESTING THE  
8                    DECLINE OF THE PREY POPULATION]; or

9                    (2) that [(B)] a disease or parasite of a predator population

10                   (A) [(i)] is threatening the normal biological condition of the  
11                    predator population; or

12                   (B) [(ii)] if left untreated, would spread to other populations [;

13                    AND

14                    (2) THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT AIRBORNE OR  
15                    SAME DAY AIRBORNE SHOOTING IS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH A  
16                    GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF  
17                    GAME].

18                    \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.783 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

19                    (e) When the Board of Game authorizes a predator control program that  
20                    includes airborne or same day airborne shooting, the board shall have the prerogative  
21                    to establish predator reduction objectives and limits, methods and means to be  
22                    employed, who is authorized to participate in the program, and the conditions for  
23                    participation of individuals in the program.

24                    \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

23-LS0846I  
Utermohle  
4/25/03

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 208(RES)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**  
**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE FATE**

**A BILL**  
**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne and airborne hunting; and  
2 providing for an effective date."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 16.05.783(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A person may not shoot or assist in shooting a free-ranging wolf or [,]  
6 wolverine [, FOX, OR LYNX] the same day that a person has been airborne.  
7 However, the Board of Game may authorize a predator control program as part of a  
8 game management plan that involves airborne or same day airborne shooting  
9 [INVOLVING SHOOTING FROM THE AIR] if

10 [(1)] the board has determined based on information provided by  
11 the department

12 (1) in regard to an identified big game prey population under  
13 AS 16.05.255(g) that [COMMISSIONER OF FISH AND GAME ACTING UNDER  
14 A REQUEST FROM THE BOARD OF GAME MAKES WRITTEN FINDINGS

1           BASED ON PREY POPULATION] objectives set by the board for the population  
2           have not been achieved and [UNDER AS 16.05.255(g)] that

3                        [(A)] predation is an important cause for the failure to achieve the  
4           objectives set by the board [FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO A LOW OR  
5           DECLINING PREY POPULATION THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH A GAME  
6           MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF GAME], and  
7           that a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of  
8           the objectives [RESULT IN AIDING AN INCREASE IN THE PREY  
9           POPULATION OR IN ARRESTING THE DECLINE OF THE PREY  
10          POPULATION]; or

11                       (2) that [(B)] a disease or parasite of a predator population

12                                (A) [(i)] is threatening the normal biological condition of the  
13           predator population; or

14                                (B) [(ii)] if left untreated, would spread to other populations [;

15           AND

16                       (2) THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES THAT AIRBORNE OR  
17           SAME DAY AIRBORNE SHOOTING IS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH A  
18           GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF  
19           GAME].

20   \* Sec. 2. AS 16.05.783 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21                       (e) When the Board of Game authorizes a predator control program that  
22           includes airborne or same day airborne shooting, the board shall establish predator  
23           reduction objectives and limits, methods and means to be employed, who is authorized  
24           to participate in the program, and the conditions for participation of individuals in the  
25           program.

26   \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Additional information in support for change to AS 16.05.783

This statute sets out conditions under which same-day-airborne (SDA) hunting of wolf, wolverine, fox, or lynx hunting may occur. It contains two basic pathways for authorizing hunting of these species the same day a person has flown.

One of these allows a Department of Fish and Game employee to engage in same-day-airborne hunting if authorized to do so in the course of a game management program.

The other pathway, and the one which is the subject of this bill, allows a person to conduct SDA hunting for these species if the Commissioner of Fish and Game makes a written finding at the request of the Board of Game stating that predation is an important factor contributing to low or declining prey population levels and that a reduction in predators can be expected to help the prey population stabilize or grow.

This section of the statute mandates that the Commissioner's finding be based on "prey population objectives" established under the intensive management law. Read strictly, this allows the finding to consider only one of the two management objectives set by the Board of Game for ungulate populations identified as being important for high levels of human consumptive use. Under AS 16.05.783, only the population objective can be considered when making a finding, and in a case when the population objective is being met, but the harvest objective is not, no finding is possible. One example of where the population objective is being met but where the harvest objective is not is the moose herd in Game Management Unit 19D East in the McGrath area. For this reason it is not possible for the Commissioner to make a finding allowing SDA wolf hunting in this case, even though wolf predation has been identified as a factor limiting this herd.

The proposed modification to the statute will allow the Commissioner to consider either or both of the intensive management objectives when determining whether to make a finding to allow SDA hunting for wolves, wolverines, foxes, or lynx, or the other species covered under this law when any management objective set by the Board is not being met and predation is identified as a crucial factor.

**Additional Information**

# Alaska King Crab

**adn.com**

Anchorage Daily News

Print Page

Close Window

## Hillside pets fall prey to canines

**UNUSUAL: Wolves, coyotes top suspects in four attacks on household dogs.**

By BEN SPIESS

Anchorage Daily News

(Published: April 6, 2003)

Wolves and coyotes are the central suspects in attacks and killings of at least four dogs on the Anchorage Hillside over the winter.

Such assaults on pets are not uncommon in Anchorage, but biologists say the number of attacks and predator sightings is unusually high.

"It's a lot of activity," said Howard Golden, a state Fish and Game biologist who lives and works in Anchorage. "Wolf kills happen periodically. But it's somewhat unusual to have a wolf running through a neighborhood, attacking dogs. It indicates they don't have much fear of human activity."

These attacks on household dogs have occurred:

- In November, two coyotes attacked and killed a beagle that was running loose near Campbell Airstrip, said Betsy Kean, a Hillside resident, who helped look for the dog after it vanished. The dog had been on a leash, but was running loose near the airfield when the coyotes attacked, she said.
- In midwinter, a large coyote or wolf snatched a small dog off the front step of a home near Birch Road on the South Anchorage Hillside. The predator carried the dog off and the pet was not seen again, according to Rick Sinnott, a Fish and Game biologist.
- Also in midwinter, a medium-sized dog was attacked while chained to a doghouse near Birch Road. The dog was found half-eaten about 30 yards from the doghouse. Sinnott believes the attacker was, again, a wolf or large coyote.

"The predator might have been a wolf-hybrid, but it's unusual for a pet to eat another pet," Sinnott wrote in an e-mail about the attacks.

- In late February or early March, a large husky or husky mix was attacked and killed while chained to a doghouse on Riverton Avenue, near lower Rabbit Creek Road. Tracks indicated a large wolf, Sinnott said. The predator tried so hard to pull the dog free of the doghouse that it ripped the dog's tail off. The dog was disemboweled.
- Friday, a woman told Sinnott that she saw a wolf with a short tail attack her neighbor's large Labrador retriever. She broke up the attack before the dog was injured.

Golden said he saw a young, gray wolf on Wednesday in the Rabbit Creek Road area. He believes the animal and perhaps some other wolves or coyotes are responsible for the attacks.

He said that wolf packs tend to disperse in late winter and early spring.

"What you have is a bunch of young inexperienced wolves about. They are trying to make a living on their own and they don't really know the rules. ... They are testing their environment. Animals learn by trial and error. A dog on a chain is an easy mark," Golden said.

He said the size of the dogs attacked suggests wolves, not coyotes, are responsible. Coyotes weigh 40 to 50 pounds. An adult wolf typically weighs 85 to 115 pounds.

A low snow year has left Anchorage's moose healthy, Golden said. That may have made hunting by wolves more difficult and placed pressure to find food elsewhere.

"These may be fairly hungry wolves," he said. Several wolf packs live in the Anchorage area, Golden said. But wolves are shy and the packs live in the mountains in areas such as Ship Creek and Arctic Valley, he said.

The seasonal breakup of the pack and hunger may be drawing the young wolves to a new food source in Anchorage.

"It's clear that there's wolves in the area."

---

Reporter Ben Spiess can be reached at [bspiess@adn.com](mailto:bspiess@adn.com) or 907-257-4464.

Print Page

Close Window

Copyright © 2003 The Anchorage Daily News ([www.adn.com](http://www.adn.com))



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee

on HB208 dated 041403  
(bill # / subject)

I am very much in favor of land and shoot hunting/trapping as a means of reducing predation. I have an extensive background in wildlife conservation and have been an avid hunter and trapper all my life, having participated in land and shoot trapping for over 20 years.

I am concerned that the inclusion of wolverine, fox, and lynx in your proposals may result in limited support from people who would otherwise be very supportive of the idea.

Being primarily scavengers or predators of small animals and birds, these species pose little threat to moose or caribou populations.

My biggest concern is that wolverine populations may be over exploited in some areas as an unintended consequence of otherwise sound predator reduction efforts. I know from personal experience that wolverines can be extremely vulnerable to land and shoot hunting/trapping. They travel extensively across open terrain during late winter and many times are much easier to locate than wolves. Wolverine fur prices are currently higher than for wolves. There's absolutely no doubt that every wolf hunter out there would stop to pick up a \$300-350 wolverine incidental to his wolf hunting activities. It's purely a matter of economics. Simply put, wolverines are potentially more profitable than wolves to the average hunter/trapper. A 30 pound wolverine takes up less room in the airplane than a 100 pound wolf. He's often easier to locate than a wolf, usually being encountered in open, treeless terrain where he can easily be harvested without expenditure of additional fuel. Often wolverines are encountered incidentally, in a vulnerable situation, while the pilot is tracking wolves across the country. It's a no brainer to conclude that such a wolverine will end up in the back of the supercub as it continues to look for wolves.

It's also my fear that, given the opportunity, many hunters/trappers would target wolverines rather than wolves for purely economic reasons in those areas where wolverine populations are the most vulnerable if it were legal to do so. Wolverines are not as prolific as wolves and can be over exploited much more easily, especially if you have a whole "air force" of aerial wolf hunters out there paying \$3.00 or more for a gallon of aviation fuel.

I think it may be difficult to sell land and shoot fox and lynx hunting to the public in the name of predator reduction as well, but at least those populations would not be put in jeopardy by the practice. I think there's a lot of support for your ideas, especially if we can focus our attention on the reduction of predation on moose and caribou.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Charles R. Rodgers P.O. Box 293 Aniak, AK. 99557 Currently in Soldotna at 262-5547



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES  
committee name

committee on HB 208 HUNTING GAME, dated 3-28-03  
bill/subject DAY AIRBORNE

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE THIS BILL - AND AS THE GOVERNOR, GAME BOARD & LEGISLATURE SEEM TO WANT TO IGNORE, SO DO THE MAJORITY OF ALASKAN VOTERS & CITIZENS! THE MENTALITY TO KILL THESE WOLVES - THE GAME BOARD'S DECISION & THIS BILL IS POMPUS & DRACONIAN. FURTHERMORE, IT IS EXTREMELY BAD SCIENCE. IT IS NOT MANAGEMENT - IT IS SLAUGHTER, TO TRY & SUBVERT THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY OF ALASKANS AND TO DO SOMETHING - ATTEMPT TO DO SOMETHING WHICH IS SUCH BAD SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT IS IGNORANT, ARROGANT & DOWNRIGHT STUPID. NOT ONLY DOES THIS RIDICULOUS & SUBVERSIVE BILL TARGET WOLVES BUT WOLVERINE, FOX, & LYNX. I SUGGEST THAT EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE MEMBERS OF THE GAME BOARD AND THE GOVERNOR & HIS STAFF READ THE NON-FICTION BOOK BY BARRY H. LOPEZ OF WOLVES AND MEN. IT EXPLAINS MUCH OF THE SCIENCE THAT THESE FOLKS ARE CHOOSING TO IGNORE OR BE IGNORANT OF AND JOIN RALLY AGAINST. I HAVE MADE IT MY BUSINESS TO BECOME VERY INFORMED (OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS) CONCERNING THIS ISSUE. IN ADDITION I HAVE A LAW DEGREE FROM LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE IN PORTLAND, OREGON AND WAS GRANTED AN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN CERTIFICATE. MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IS IN GEOGRAPHY SPECIALIZING IN THE NATURAL HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICA. I AM ALSO A NATIONALLY & ALASKAN KNOWN POET WHO WRITES EXTENSIVELY ON NATURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL & SPIRITUAL ISSUES. WHETHER THE STATE EMPLOYEES KILL WOLVES AND OTHER ANIMALS BY SNOWMOBILE, HELICOPTER OR AIRPLANE OR WHETHER REGULAR CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED TO DO THIS, IT IS UNCONSCIONABLE AND BARBARIC.

Signed: Rebecca Lee Gates REBECCA LEE GATES  
Testifier

SELF (+ THE CITIZENS OF ALASKA)  
Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 376 HOMER, AK 99603  
Address

(907) 235-9188 poetgates@hotmail.com  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource  
committee name

committee on HB 208, dated 3/28/03  
bill/subject

Dear House Resource Committee members,  
I urge you turn down HB 208. The wording ~~is~~ of the bill includes predators that don't even hunt moose. This bill is so far out of line, it's hardly worth the time we are taking on it.

1. No science or real numbers justify these actions.
2. You cannot eliminate one species without affecting far more than the intended goal.
3. This is not game management, this is barbarism.
4. The bad PR generated from such an action is going to hit the state economically.
5. The public has already voted overwhelmingly against such action.
6. If this is a food issue, then we ~~do~~ need to deal with this on a food level. There are so many other alternatives to a food problem.
7. These resources belong to everyone. Alaska is not a place to turn into wildlife <sup>for</sup> human consumption management.

Signed: Marika E. Moru

Testifier

Marika Moru

self

cont -

Representing (Optional)

Box 4084

Address

Homer, AK 99603

Phone No.

235-7455

To: HRES, 3-28-03, HB208  
From: Marika Morw

Page 2 of 2

This has been done before, with drastic results. Our government is spending millions of dollars to reintroduce species after humans have systematically eliminated them. Do we need to keep repeating mistakes made before.

A balanced ecosystem is a resource and belongs here. I am opposed to this "management" of a balanced, functioning, valuable, intact ecosystem simply for the interests of a very small group of people.

This isn't just killing wolves and relocating bears. (we don't know much about relocation either) but foxes, and lynx. This is crazy.

I am opposed to HB 208!

This bill must die immediately.

I do not want ~~any~~ monies spent on such special interest issues. The state budget is too tight to even start to entertain such ridiculous actions of such grave consequences.

This is the 21st Century, not the dark ages of uninformed barbarians, for all the science and knowledge we have, this bill reflects nothing but special interest bulldozing of the worst kind.

NO on HB 208.

Please, please,  
please



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Cmte.  
committee name

committee on HB 208, dated 03/28/03

HONORABLE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS;  
bill/subject

I AM A VERY LONG-TERM ALASKA RESIDENT, AND A PROPERTY OWNER HERE IN FRITZ CREEK. I VOTED TWICE TO OUTLAW THE PRACTICE OF "LAND AND SHOOT" HUNTING THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF ALASKA. I LIKE EATING MOOSE, AND I ALSO LIKE WOLVES AND BEARS; ALIVE. THERE IS NOTHING MORALLY OR POLITICALLY WRONG WITH WOLVES OR BEARS FOR DOING WHAT PREDATORS DO - KILLING AND EATING MOOSE AND OTHER GRITTERS. PLEASE OPPOSE HB-208! "LAND AND SHOOT" HUNTING WILL START ANOTHER VISITOR BOYCOTT TO ALASKA, & WILL DEVESTATE PORTIONS OF OUR TOURISM INDUSTRY.

Signed: Michael W. Kiemann  
Testifier

(self)

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 15163, Fritz Creek, AK. 99603  
Address

(907) 235-2552  
Phone No.

TO: HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE : RE: HB 208

March 26, 2003

Dear Sir

I am strongly opposed to shooting wolves from helicopters as a form of predator control. I am opposed to any kind of aerial hunting--a practice which the legislature voted to outlaw years ago. I am equally opposed to giving permits to hunters as a way to control "predators". I think going after the wolves with snow machines and hunting them from airplanes is disgusting, and unethical. It makes me ashamed to be an Alaskan

Whether we use state funds to kill predators, or allow hunters to do so, this barbaric practice is designed favor a small segment of the Alaskan population. This is mainly, but not only an issue concerning the budget. Wolves are an Alaska resource belonging to ALL the people; their fate is definitely also my concern, not just the concern of fish and game to "manage" for a chosen few. . These people who "need" moose for food have not been forced to live in the bush, but instead have chosen rural living as their lifestyle. I can think of no law that says humans have a God given right to include moose in their diet. Why should I be asked to condone and subsidize someone else's lifestyle--especially right now when the state is cutting many of its essential programs? (and raising taxes? For stuff like this?) When someone chooses to live away from the mainstream and out in the bush, they should go with the flow and adapt to the cycles of nature, not try to force nature to change for their own selfish benefit. The wolves have a greater right to the moose than a few game hunters or homesteaders who could have other options for food, (such as growing their own!) or who can move elsewhere.. The wolves and bears were here first and cannot suddenly change their diets or move to another state.

I have lived in Alaska 60 + years and grew up on a homestead, subsistence style, living off the land and sea.. Our family grew vegetables, and raised a cow for meat and milk, we raised chickens and rabbits, and we had enough! We figured wolves and coyotes were part of living in the Alaskan wilderness, part of its risks, excitement, beauty and challenges. We never killed a moose, bear, or any animal, except to eat, and we respected the wild creatures their own right to eat any animal they chose. I never thought of them as "my" moose. I grew up respecting the balance of nature for its own sake and not just to service humans. Lets face it, we only manage wildlife for the benefit of a few people. Before we came along, nature managed itself quite well without our "help". Those creatures that are not economically "useful" to us for hunting, subsistence, tourism, fishing, or fur are rarely deemed worth protecting, yet for many of us, they are equally important to our Alaskan quality of life. It seems to me if a person can afford a plane, an ATV, a boat, a snowmachine, plus all that expensive ammo and gear, they dont NEED that "subsistence" moose to SAVE on grocery bills, for goodness sake! Only hunting on foot, by horse, should be allowed!

I urge Gov. Murkowski to find ways to develop other, sustainable food sources for needy Alaskans. State money would be better spent subsidizing Alaska's struggling farmers, and to support and develop a home grown food supply. Killing off wolves is a primitive and short term approach to the long term food needs of our state.

Sincerely  
Maurin Kilcher, Homer, Alaska

Robert Archibald  
P.O. Box 2460  
Homer, AK 99603

Attention: *Home Resources*, 3-28-03  
HB 208

Dear *Home* Members:

I strongly OPPOSE the Murkowski proposal to shoot wolves from helicopters & the removal of bears in the McGrath area.

I suspect one of the reasons for the decrease in the number of moose in this area is connected to human predation by the people living in & around McGrath.

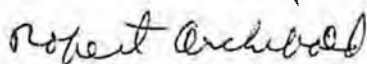
I think there are many other creative solutions to increase the moose population, rather than the sole one proposed by the Governor. The following are some suggestions:

1. Close the area around McGrath to moose hunting until the population returns to a Healthy number.
2. Use the helicopters to transport hunters to other locations with healthy moose Populations. Better yet, have the hunters pay to get flown into these other areas Like everyone else does.
3. Community members raise their own beef cattle.
4. Community members raise reindeer.
5. Community members have organic beef shipped in from the various places in Alaska where these cattle are raised and the farmers desperately need a market  
Ie: Palmer, Homer & Kodiak

I take great umbrage in the fact our wildlife has to pay so dearly for humans to eat. In my opinion, the wolves have more right to those moose than humans do, because humans have other food choices.

I will never agree with the idea of predator control for the sake of raising ungulate numbers so hunters can kill them. I consider the funds spent for wolf eradication a subsidy for the hunters. I would much prefer to see this subsidy go to the farmers working so hard to supply us with organic beef.

Sincerely



Robert Archibald  
907-235-8214



**Society**

## **Kachemak Bay Conservation**

3734 Ben Walters Lane, Suite 202  
Homer, AK 99603

Phone: (907)235-2062 • Fax: (907)235-4069 • [kbcbs@xyz.net](mailto:kbcbs@xyz.net)

House Resources Cmte. 3/28/03 HB 208

Representative Paul Seaton  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

March 21, 2003

Dear Paul,

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society has closely followed the recent actions of the state Board of Game concerning predator control. We are dismayed by the Board of Game's ill-considered predator control recommendations for the McGrath area and even more detrimental proposals increasing both the geographic scope of predator control and the means by which predators will be eradicated. Public pronouncements by some Board of Game members concerning predators and the means of their destruction have gone far beyond the bounds of acceptable public discourse.

Alaska voters solidly opposed "land and shoot" hunting throughout the state by statewide ballot initiative in 1996 and again through a referendum in 2000. The recent recommendations of the Board of Game to allow members of the public to employ land and shoot wolf hunting within the Nelchina Basin northeast of Anchorage and certain other areas directly contravenes the lawful decision of Alaskan voters to ban this practice in our state.

You are also aware that there are other perspectives on the hugely complex issue of natural resource management, and that there are other beliefs concerning the management of ecosystems. Without the benefit of other points of view the Alaska Outdoor Council dominated Board of Game will continue to adopt contentious, deleterious recommendations and ignore moderate hunters and the 75% of Alaskans who do not hunt or trap.

Please consider closely the varied perspectives of your constituents on the predator control issue, as well as the many questions, controversies, and opportunities that will arise concerning the management of state lands and natural resources during your tenure in the Alaska Legislature. We respectfully urge your opposition to the recent Board of Game recommendations to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning the opening of areas to predator control, and specifically the use of aircraft to shoot wolves and "remove" bears.

*PLEASE OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 208.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberta Highland, President

House Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Representatives Chenault, Fate, Gatto, Guttenberg, Heinze, Lynn, Kertulla and Wolf

Dear Committee Members,

March 28, 2003

I am writing to ask you to oppose H.B. 208. The public, and most importantly, the residents statewide have repeatedly voted down attempts to legislate the use of airborne and land and shoot hunting. Public opinion does not support these methods as valid for wildlife management. You all were elected to listen to and represent your constituents, not the Board of Game.

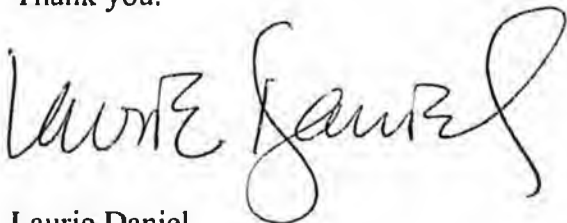
It is clear this bill is an attempt to politically influence wildlife management in this state and reflects the efforts of special interests within the Board of Game. It is widely accepted in the field of wildlife biology that employing aerial predator control to manipulate prey numbers is an out-dated and ecologically unsound method for managing wildlife populations.

With increasing pressure from the hunting communities located around the greater Anchorage area and the McGrath area, it is obvious we need to incorporate a measure of hunting management into the wildlife equation. Requiring hunters to spread their efforts out into presently less hunted areas around the state would effectively help to resolve the issue of prey availability and sustained yield in a much more ecologically viable way.

ADF&G does not have accurate population estimates for the primary prey and predator species throughout the state, therefore employing the drastic measure of aerial hunting to reduce predator populations around easy access prey populations for human consumption is poor science and bad management practice.

I ask that you require ADF&G to manage wildlife across the state from a scientifically valid, ecosystem-based approach. As such, I respectfully request that the House Resources Committee to reject H.B 208.

Thank you.



Laurie Daniel  
PO Box 3713  
Homer, AK 99603