

**SB**

**155**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/17/03

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 5-1-03

Resources Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 155

SB 155 HUNTING SAME DAY AIRBORNE

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

and recommends:

be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS SB 155 (RES)

adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

attached amendment(s)

adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**Senate Bill:**

same title

new title

**House Bill:**

same title

technical title

new: SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
F+G	3/30/03		✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
<i>Paul Ryan</i>	✓			
<i>Donna Shalaby</i>	✓			
<i>Steve Stivers</i>		✓		
<i>Blue Stains</i>	✓			
<i>Kelph Seebus</i>	✓			
CHAIR: <i>Wendy Brown</i>	✓			

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: SB 155  
(S) Publish Date: 4/17/03

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 Senator Seekins  
Requester Senate Judiciary 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>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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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 (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 3/30/03 1:23 PM  
Approved by: Kevin C. Duffy, Commissioner Date 3/30/2003  
Agency Department of Fish and Game



**SENATOR SCOTT OGAN** Alaska State Legislature

Senate District H Lazy Mountain \* Butte \* Chugiak \* Peters Creek

Knik-Goose Bay \* Big Lake \* Houston \* Willow \* Talkeetna \* Trapper Creek

State Capitol, Room 103, Juneau Alaska 99801 \* (907) 465-3878 \* 1 (800) 862-3878 \* Fax (907) 465-3265

Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Http://www.akrepublicans.org/ogan

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: <u>George Utermohle</u>	FROM: <u>Linda Tracy Sen Res.</u>
COMPANY: <u>Leglegal</u>	DATE: <u>4-30-03</u>
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: <u>1</u>
PHONE NUMBER:	RE:

URGENT     FOR REVIEW     PLEASE COMMENT     PLEASE REPLY     PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Please prepare a final for  
CS SB 155 (Res) based

on work draft    23-LS0855 \V  
Utermohle  
4/30/03

Moved out of Senate Resources today.

I am in room # 103

Thank you -

23-LS0855V  
Utermohle  
4/30/03

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 155( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR SEEKINS

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 achieve the  
2 objectives set by the board [FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO A LOW OR  
3 DECLINING PREY POPULATION THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH A GAME  
4 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF GAME], and  
5 that a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of  
6 the objectives [RESULT IN AIDING AN INCREASE IN THE PREY  
7 POPULATION OR IN ARRESTING THE DECLINE OF THE PREY  
8 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-LS0855U  
Utermohle  
4/28/03

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 155( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR SEEKINS

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to hunting of predators; 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  
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15 have not been achieved and [UNDER AS 16.05.255(g)] that

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



Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-2327  
(907) 465-5241 Fax

Interim:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 201  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161  
Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

**Senator Ralph Seekins**  
District D

## MEMORANDUM

Date: April 22, 2003

To: Office of Senator Scott Ogan

From: Senator Ralph Seekins

*AS for R.S.*

Re: Request for Hearing of SB 155

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Attached please find Senate Bill 155 along with the corresponding Sponsor Statement and supporting documentation.

Senate Bill 155 alters language within Section 16.05.783 of the Alaska Statutes relating to the regulation of Fish and Game resources. These alterations provide the Fish and Game Board and Commissioner with necessary tools in the management of game populations throughout the state.

I respectfully request a hearing before your committee on this Bill at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

# ALASKA STATE SENATE



Session:  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-2327  
(907) 465-5241 Fax

Interim:  
119 N. Cushman, Suite 201  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 456-8161  
Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Ralph Seekins  
District D

## SB 155 Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 155 alters language within Section 16.05.783 of the Alaska Statutes relating to the Regulation of Fish and Game. These alterations provide the Fish and Game Board and Commissioner with necessary tools in the management of game populations throughout the state.

The first alteration clarifies Legislative intent with respect to airborne predator control programs. The second alteration provides for game population objectives to be taken into consideration in determining whether or not a predator control program should be implemented.

As an example, if the minimum game population objective is met, but the harvest level is not, a management decision—under current law—cannot be made even if it is determined that predators are limiting the game population. The second alteration allows the Board to use both prey *and* game population objectives when making a determination with respect to the use of a predator control program.

Senate Bill 155 makes changes that will allow the Fish and Game Board as well as the Commissioner to better manage wildlife by *balancing* predator and game populations based on the best science available.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450  
FAX (907) 465-2029  
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

## MEMORANDUM

April 23, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Sectional Summary of CSSB 155(JUD), an Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne and airborne hunting (Work Order No. 23-LS0855\S)

**TO:** Senator Ralph Seekins  
Attn: Brian Hove

**FROM:** George Utermohle *GU*  
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of CSSB 155(JUD), an Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne and airborne hunting.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill is not an authoritative interpretation of the bill. The bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill amends AS 16.05.783(a). As amended, AS 16.05.783(a) provides that except under a predator control program authorized by the Board of Game, a person may not shoot, or assist in shooting, a free-ranging wolf or wolverine on the same day that a person has been airborne. The amendment repeals the prohibition against taking fox or lynx on the same day that a person has been airborne. The Board of Game may authorize a predator control program that involves airborne or same day airborne shooting if the board determines that objectives for a big game prey population have not been achieved, that predation is an important cause for the failure to achieve the objectives, and that a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in the achievement of the objectives. The Board of Game may also authorize a predator control program that involves airborne or same day airborne shooting if the board determines that a predator population is threatened by a disease or parasite that threatens the normal biological condition of the predator population or that if left untreated would spread to other populations.

Section 2 of the bill adds a new subsection to AS 16.05.783 to provide that the Board of Game shall establish predator reduction objectives, methods and means, who is authorized to participate, and the conditions for participation of individuals, when the board authorizes a predator control program that includes airborne or same day airborne shooting.

Section 3 of the bill provides that the bill takes effect immediately upon becoming law.

GU:mdr  
03-084:mdr

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

## LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

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Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

### MEMORANDUM

March 27, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Same day hunting of wolves

**TO:** Senator Scott Ogan  
ATTN: Linda Hay

**FROM:** George Utermohle *GU*  
Legislative Counsel

You have asked whether state employees may engage in hunting of wolves on the same day that they are airborne.

Under AS 16.05.783(a), there is a general prohibition against shooting or assisting in shooting of free-ranging wolves on the same day that a person was airborne.

However, AS 16.05.783(b) provides that an employee of the Department of Fish and Game is not subject to the prohibition against hunting on the same day airborne under subsection (a), if they are authorized to shoot or to assist in shooting wolf on the same day that they are airborne as part of a game management program approved by the Board of Game or the commissioner of fish and game to achieve identified game management objectives in a designated geographic area.

If I can provide further assistance, please advise.

GU:lmb  
03-106.lmb

## AIRBORNE HUNTING ACT

16 U.S.C. § 742j-1, November 18, 1971, as amended 1972.

**Overview.** The Act, a section of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, prohibits harassing, capturing or killing birds, fish and other animals from aircraft, with certain limited exceptions.

**Selected Definitions.** Aircraft: any contrivance used for flight in the air. § 742j-1(c).

**Prohibitions and Exceptions.** The Act imposes fines, imprisonment for up to one year, or both on a person who: while airborne in an aircraft shoots or attempts to shoot to capture or kill any bird, fish or other animal; uses an aircraft to harass any bird, fish or other animal; knowingly participates in using an aircraft for any of these purposes. (See the summary of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 for more information on criminal penalties.)

These prohibitions do not apply to state or federal employees, authorized agents, or persons acting under a license or permit, who are authorized to administer or protect land, water, wildlife, livestock, domesticated animals, human life or crops. Each person authorized under a license or permit must report to the issuing authority each calendar quarter the number and type of animals taken. Each state that issues permits must file with the Secretary of Interior an annual report listing permit holders, animals authorized to be taken, the animals actually taken and the reason for issuing the permits. § 742j-1(a) and (b).

**Enforcement.** The Secretary of Interior is responsible for enforcing this Act and issuing regulations. Authorized Department of the Interior employees who witness a violation of the Act may arrest the violator without a warrant, take the person to an officer or court, execute warrants to enforce the Act, and conduct searches. Any federal judge or magistrate may issue warrants upon probable cause. The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with state fish and wildlife agencies or other authorities to facilitate enforcement of the Act, and may delegate enforcement authority to state law enforcement personnel. § 742j-1(d).

**Forfeiture.** All animals taken, and all guns, aircraft and other equipment used in violation of this Act, are subject to forfeiture to the federal government. Federal laws relating to the forfeiture of vessels for violation of custom laws apply to forfeitures under this Act. § 742j-1(e) and (f).

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Chapter 4 - Statute Summaries  
Federal Wildlife & Related Laws Handbook



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee

on SB155, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(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

Testimony On SB-155  
Alaska Outdoor Council  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 31, 2003  
By: Carl L. Rosier

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record my name is Carl Rosier and I am here today to testify on behalf of the Alaska Outdoor Council. For those who may not know me I was employed with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for almost 30 years and finished my career as Commissioner under the Hickel Administration. The Outdoor Council is a statewide association of 40 plus outdoor recreation groups with a membership that exceeds ten thousand Alaskans. The organization promotes good conservation of our fish and wildlife resources, sustainability of wildlife habitat, protection of public access and fair allocation of fish and game resources for all Alaskans.

The Council supports the provisions of SB-155 and its companion bill HB-208. These bills deal with clarification of airborne or same day airborne as a tool for predator control in areas identified by the Board of Game that require control measures for recovery of low or declining prey populations of game species. You as legislators have the benefit of supporting one of the finest Boards of Game I have personally observed in many years. The newly appointed members are solid long term Alaskans that have been managers of the resource, carried on businesses dependent on those resources and know and appreciate the benefits to all Alaskans from well managed game herds

It is unfortunate that this new Board has been somewhat hamstrung by direction from the third floor that control with the use of helicopters will not be approved. Helicopters are by far the most efficient, humane and economic method for conduct of a control program. Keep in mind also that we are focusing here on a control program, not a hunting action in which "fair chase" becomes a consideration. Be aware also that AOC is not advocating the extermination of all predator as we have been accused of in the past.

The current Board of Game has identified three game management units 13, 16-B and 19-D that require immediate control action. All three areas have experienced tremendous drops of over 70% in moose densities during the last ten years. Units 13 and 19-D have had previous Board control plans gathering dust on the shelf for several years. Implementation of these plans was never permitted under the previous administration with the resultant continued decline in the moose populations. Action at this time is critical in order to just stop the decline and begin a long re-building process of the moose herds in these areas.

We have three minor suggestions that will in our reading of the bill, strengthen it and better protect aircraft owners that may choose to participate in a Board approved control program. The first is insertion of the words "in identified game management units" following the word "shooting" on page 1 line 8. A second suggestion is insertion of the words "harvest management objectives adopted" following the words "based on" page 1 line 10. A third suggestion is the addition of a new section (a) (3) that reads "Prior to taking a wolf, wolverine, fox or lynx either airborne or same day airborne a person must obtain a permit issued by the Commissioner", page 2 last line.

Game management over a broad area of the state is in need of returning to a policy of intensive management. The natural cycle policies endorsed by the last administration have created hardships for all Alaskans and permitted many populations to decline into the catch term "Predator Pit". A long term commitment to intensive management is necessary to bring these populations back and to protect herds that are healthy. Passage and hopefully the action to follow will start us back on that path. It is only a small step but the bill is a step in the right direction and will benefit all user groups as well the wildlife resources.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

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Alaska Outdoor Council  
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March 31, 2003  
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Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 5 JUD  
 committee on SB 155, dated 03/31/03  
 bill/subject \_\_\_\_\_ committee name \_\_\_\_\_

My name is Gloria Stickman, and I am representing Ahtna, Inc. The Ahtna People support land and shoot some day, airborne hunting in Unit 11 and Unit 13.

The caribou herds in Unit 11 and Unit 13 are at a low population, which is due to wolves, and bears preying upon the calves.

The Moose population is low in Unit 11 and Unit 13, too. The calves of the moose population are preyed upon by the high number of wolves and bears in these two units.

The Ungulate population will continue to decline, if nothing is done to protect their calves.

Brown Bears and Black bears should be added to the list of predators for Unit 11 and Unit 13. The Black and Brown Bears are numerous, and are killing the calves of Caribou and Moose.

Unit 13 is a popular and impacted place, during the hunting seasons for caribou and moose. This will help to reduce the ungulate populations, even more so.

Please read and take into consideration, when you vote on this - my statement.

The Copper Basin is and will become more impacted, the moose and caribou calves need to be protected from predators in Unit 11 and Unit 13.

Signed: Gloria Stickman  
 Testifier

Ahtna, Inc.  
 Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 649 Glennallen, AK 99588  
 Address

(907) 822-3476  
 Phone No.

*Chairman and members  
Senate Judiciary Committee*

From: Byron Haley <bwhaley4@gci.net>

Date: Mon Mar 31, 2003 7:16:31 AM America/Anchorage

Subject:

Testimony at the LIO Office Monday 3-31-03 By BYRON W. HALEY.

I AM BYRON HALEY A 54 YEAR RESIDENT OF FAIRBANKS, AK.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT H.B. 208 AND ALSO S.B. 155. THESE ARE THE KIND OF TOOLS NEEDED TO HELP TO GET A.D.F.&G. BACK IN THE GAME TO CONTROL THE PREDATOR POPULATION AND RESTORING ARE BIG GAME POPULATION. WE ARE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE IN UNIT 13 AND SUB. UNIT 19D ALONG WITH OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA DUE TO THE LACK OF PREDATOR CONTROL. WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT TILL WE ARE IN A PREDATOR/PREY PIT SITUATION BEFORE WE TAKE ANY ACTION TO REDUCE THE PREDATOR POPULATION. WHEN YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE MOOSE CALF RECRUITMENT ALONG WITH THE LOSS OF SOME ADULT MOOSE YOU CAN NOT SCIENTIFICALLY MANAGE BIG GAME POPULATION WITH OUT EARLY PREDATOR CONTROL.

THANK YOU

BYRON W. HALEY

*Byron W. Haley*

1002 PIONEER ROAD

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-2818

P.O. Box 2994  
Homer, AK 99603

March 31, 2003

House Resources Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

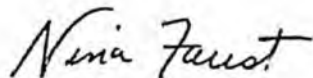
Dear Committee Members:

I am appalled at the Alaska Board of Game's actions concerning predator control that recommends wolf and bear control for the McGrath and other areas. Most distressing are recommendations to use aerial means to eradicate predators. It is very obvious that some members of the BOG do not even have a scientific understanding of the value these animals have in a natural system, referring to them as "vermin".

Alaska voters opposed "land and shoot" hunting in a statewide ballot initiative in 1996 and a referendum in 2000. The BOG recommendations to allow members of the public to employ land and shoot wolf hunting within the Nelchina Basin northeast of Anchorage and certain other areas goes directly against the will of the citizens of Alaska.

Wildlife management is a complex issue, and there are many philosophical approaches to the management of ecosystems. A scientific approach is the proper approach. Conceding to the Alaska Outdoor Council dominated Board of Game whose point of view favors predator control will lead to contentious, detrimental recommendations that ignore moderate hunters and those who appreciate other values of wildlife. Please listen to the citizens of Alaska who have consistently opposed aerial wolf hunting and turn down HB 208 and SB 155.

Sincerely,



Nina Faust

P.O. Box 2994  
Homer, AK 99603  
March 31, 2003

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

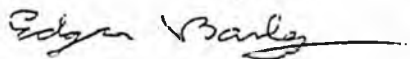
Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

As a wildlife biologist who has worked in different parts of Alaska for 34 years, I strongly oppose both HB 208 and SB 155.

Besides being costly, predator control over the long term is ineffective because of density dependant natality (higher reproductive success with low predator populations) and the influx from surrounding areas of wolves and other predators into regions where control has occurred. In most cases ungulate populations chiefly respond to winter severity and habitat conditions. In many cases local overhunting by increasing numbers of hunters using ATVs are the chief reasons for low prey populations.

The Alaskan voters have twice rejected (1996 and 2000) airborne or same day airborne hunting for wolves. It would be unconscionable to again ignore the majority of residents who oppose this unwarranted practice. Airborne hunting may have been recommended by the BOG, but it must be pointed out that most BOG members belong to the Alaska Outdoor Council, which has a very narrow, uncompromising viewpoint promoting predator control. By no means does the current BOG reflect a cross-section of the overall public's attitude toward aerial wolf control or predator control in general.

Sincerely,



Edgar Bailey



# Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

3734 Ben Walters Lane, Suite 202

Homer, AK 99603

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

March 31, 2003

*Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:*

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's is a membership organization whose mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and encourage sustainable use and stewardship of resources through advocacy, education/information, and collaboration. We are very concerned about the precedent being set by the State's proposal for a predator management program, including aerial killing of all wolves and removal of "as many black and grizzly bears as possible" on 332,000 acres in the McGrath area. Of great concern to KBCS is the announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) that "what we learn from this experiment will help guide future management in other areas."

This is not an experiment in any sense of the word. If the state eliminates the predators from a region, the result is inevitable—there will be more survival of the prey base, assuming other factors such as weather are not severe. KBCS does not support artificially boosting ungulate populations by eliminating predators. This methodology was employed throughout the Lower 48 years ago with drastic consequences to major ecosystems. Now agencies are spending millions trying to reintroduce some of these same predators.

Removing bears is a euphemism for killing bears. Moving bears sufficient distances so they won't return, especially brown bears, will be extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive. Furthermore, many of the bears will die in the process, or will be killed when they are placed in other bears' territories.

Alaska should be exemplifying the best scientific methods for managing wildlife. Shooting wolves from helicopters and "moving" bears will give Alaska a serious black eye and may even spur a tourism boycott. In the interests of protecting tourism in the Kachemak Bay region, we implore the State not to employ such drastic and universally distained methods of killing wolves. The economic consequences will very likely be felt around the State.

Finally, we urge the State to employ better population surveys, careful regulation of moose and other ungulate harvests, and habitat enhancement to help increase moose populations in local areas. We would certainly expect these methodologies in our own area and we request that the State employ valid scientific management methods in the McGrath area as well. Please do not pass HB 208 or SB 155.

Sincerely,

*Roberta Highland*

Roberta Highland, President

CC: Governor Murkowski, Senator Ted Stevens, Representative Paul Seaton

March 31, 2003

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee

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  
Maurice Kilchen, Homer, Alaska

HB208

SB155



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Judiciary  
House Resources

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_\_\_  
(committee name)  
committee on Predator Control dated March 31, 2003  
(bill/subject)

I wish to express my extreme shock  
at the administration's predator control  
Program. The policy makes absolutely  
no sense and is directly contradictory  
to extensive sound scientific studies  
on the subject. I vote no on predator  
control.

Thank you for your consideration  
Catherine Malcolm

Signed: Catherine Malcolm  
(Testifier)

Self  
(Representing / Optional)  
Box 1528 Seward, AK 99664  
(Address)

(907) 224-5851  
(Phone No.)

Honorable Members,

My name is Arthur Hussey, 3450 Chetana Drive, Fairbanks. I testify as a constituent, as well as as the Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. Neither I, nor my organization, nor most of the estimated 2,500 Alaskans whose conservation interests I represent, favor HB 208/5B155.

Please be assured that we support legislation that implements the Alaska constitution's mandate that natural resources be managed for sustained yield. However, overshadowing this is the fact that, in all decisions, government must be of the people, for the people. And the people have on multiple occasions indicated their lack of support for airborne or same day airborne shooting of predators, and have done so as recently as two and a half years ago. To pass this bill now thus goes against public desires. There is currently cynicism about the disconnect between legislators and the significant parts of the electorate and I don't like it. I doubt you do, either---a yes vote by the legislature would exacerbate this discontent. A no vote on this bill would help restore confidence in the legislature. I should add that the electorate has left open options for predator management and that it would be wise for the Administration and legislature to fully explore these as it seeks to implement the Constitution. Moreover, there are a variety of other options available that enhance game populations through basic habitat improvement.

I thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur Hussey".

B3  
B3  
B4

# LOCAL

Section  
B

itor: newsroom@newsminer.com or 459-7575

Friday, March 21, 2003

## Local boosts game board authority

the bill an attempt to circumvent public votes opposing certain predator-control practices.

Seekins says he introduced the proposal based on suggestions from members of the Board of Game, representatives of the Department of Fish and Game and others. Firstly, the bill would allow Fish and Game to control predators in regions of the state where there is not necessarily a shortage of prey animals, but where the department believes the number of predators poses a threat. Seekins



SEEKINS

argued Thursday that the change would allow the department to counteract game animal shortages before they occur.

"There are many different objectives that they have in the department," Seekins said. "Let's say that you saw a bear population go way above the objective or the wolf population go way above the objective, then the commissioner should be able to determine that, 'Hey, this objective we know from scientific evidence and prior history, well-founded knowledge, that we need to do something now before it heads into the predator pit situation.'"

The idea of pre-emptive predator control does not sit well with

alaska  
Legislature  
2003

some, including former Board of Game member Joel Bennett. Bennett said such changes violate anti-wolf control initiatives backed by the Alaskan public; more to the point, he called the idea of predator control not based on prey numbers "kind of absurd."

"If you don't have prey objectives that are not being met, why would you conduct wolf or bear control?" he asked. "That's a fun-

damental, reasonable component of any program—that there would have to be a problem with the prey population."

Another part of Seekins' bill would tweak the language of the statute allowing airborne wolf control to clarify that such programs would allow either shooting from the air or shooting from the ground, the same day the shooter has been in the air.

"It just makes it very clear, that they have the authority to do that," Seekins said.

Seekins said the change is meant to clarify language to facilitate a proposed wolf control program in McGrath, which was endorsed last week by the state

Board of Game. But Bennett, as well as Karen Deatherage of Defenders of Wildlife, argue that the bill would basically pave the way for the department to allow private individuals, not just Fish and Game employees or agents, to engage in land-and-shoot hunting in predator control areas.

"I have no doubt what this bill does, as far as reauthorizing land-and-shoot," said Bennett.

Land-and-shoot hunting by private individuals, they argue, was rejected by a majority of Alaska voters in a pair of initiatives, in 1996 and 2000.

"150,000 Alaskans said 'forget

See BILL, Page B2

blers



## FEDCO searches for new director

By AMANDA BOHMAN  
Staff Writer

The Fairbanks Economic Development Corp. is in the

director, who is based at Fairbanks International Airport.

The mission of the nonprofit organization is to

# BILL: Predator control

Continued from Page B1

it," said Deatherage, referring to one of the votes.

"The public does not want this to happen," said Bennett. "We're going to drag the state through this whole thing again?"

Seekins, on the other hand, says he is of the opinion that it is already legal to allow Fish and Game permittees, rather than just employees, to land-and-shoot for the purposes of predator control. He says he supports the idea, which has been decried by some as a violation of fair-chase hunting principles.

"The result is going to be the same—they're going to thin out predator populations," he said. "It's not fair-chase killing that's

going to do it."

Seekins said the intent of his bill is not to grant added powers to the department but to clarify the powers he believes it already has.

"I'm not sure" the statute is clear enough, he said. "I want them to have the absolute statutory authority as a department."

But he also said the bill may represent a first step in further rewriting of the land-and-shoot statute.

"That might be part of a proposal with permittees being able to do that," he said.

Seekins bill has been referred to the Senate Judiciary and Resources committees.

Reporter Tom Moran can be reached at [tmoran@newsminer.com](mailto:tmoran@newsminer.com) or (907) 463-4893.

# RECRUIT: Patriotism

Continued from Page B1

stances.

"The retirees have a high level of patriotism and they're calling, willing to do whatever they can," said Master Sgt. Larry White, marketing coordinator for the Alaska Army National Guard.

Fairbanks has a high percentage of retired military personnel living in the city, Hamilton said. "You've got a lot of military families. They tend to have a disproportionate number of kids that go follow mom or dad's footsteps."

Over the past two years, the U.S. military has been meeting goals at, in some cases, an unprecedented rate, Hamilton said. Young people seeing scenes of U.S. troops in Iraq won't quash that momentum.

"They think, 'There's young men and women like myself who are doing something important and I really wish I could be one of them,'" he said.

Contact reporter Kyle Hopkins at [khopkins@newsminer.com](mailto:khopkins@newsminer.com) or call 459-7593.

# NPR-A: Public input

Continued from Page B1

could begin by 2007 and would be the first producing field in the reserve. The tentative ConocoPhillips plans call for construction of the final two sites in 2009 and 2010.

Earlier, the BLM held similar public meetings in Anchorage, Barrow and the village of Nuiqsut, which is about 35 miles of all the satellite fields. Roughly 14 people attended the Barrow gathering and about 50 attended the village meeting.

At the Nuiqsut meeting, residents expressed interest in the job opportunities drill sites could bring, but were concerned about the effect on their subsistence

area considered for development, echoed a statement made at the Barrow meeting—that oil development in the area has been overwhelming at times. Fairbanks resident and union member Charles Paskvan noted resource development's vital impact on the state economy and spoke in favor of the ConocoPhillips proposals.

While BLM is the lead agency on the project, the bureau is joined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency and the state in the permitting process.

Two of the proposed sites are on Native corporation land, one is on state land and two are on BLM

# LOCAL APPLAUSE

The Daily News-Miner invites readers to share their thanks for a good deed, a contribution, a helping hand or anything else they deem worthy. Send your thanks to "Applause," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, P.O. Box 70710, Fairbanks, AK 99707, fax 452-7917, or e-mail [letters@newsminer.com](mailto:letters@newsminer.com). Letters may not exceed 350 words and contributions may be edited.

## Sportsmen's banquet

The 12th annual Ruffed Grouse Society Sportsmen's Banquet was held on Saturday, Feb. 22, at Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge. This fund-raiser was again a huge success, with 318 attendees and over \$27,000 net profit for forest wildlife habitat and conservation programs. Again, tickets were sold out a week before the banquet. A fine dinner was included in an evening of raffles, auctions, and prizes, including 16 guns, wildlife prints, sporting goods, furs, jewelry and trips by lodges and air services. Success was a result of hard work and generosity of all involved.

Special thanks to the committee:

Prize Chairman Jim McCann, Gary and Nancy Junk, Ron and Linda Salmi, Patti Sandstrom, Kimberly Adler, Bruce and Carol Barnett, Bill and Lynn Childress, Karl and Stephanie Gohlke, Pete and Brandy Jacobsen, Ken Larimore, Marc and Ann Lee, Mick and Cec Manns, Charlie and Sheryl Roberts, Lisa Saperstein, Cal and Gale Skaugstad and Bob and Sally Stuart. Auctioneers were Bob and Cindy Gray.

Conservation Habitat sponsors (\$500) were:

Damien Delzer, Rita Heidkamp/Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., Ralph Seekins, Wells Fargo Bank (Jim Lund), W. Lee Payne, DDS, and Brian and Leslie Yamamoto.

Habitat sponsor's (\$250) were:

Bruce and Carol Barnett, Peter Bente, Stacy Brewer, Mathew Creager, Bruce Duvlea, Jay Felli, Mark and Jo Frame, Thomas Gross, John Hartwick, Ross and Jeanette Hayden, Gary and Mary Hiller, Dick and Tammie Hemmen, Peter and Brandy Jacobsen, Leonard King, Ken Lamers, Thomas Lewis, Jim and

Staiger, Robert and Sally Dan Tempel and Timot Donsel.

Those who upgraded sponsor at the banquet:

Steven Angel, Valerie Bob Bunch, Sara Cebul Childress, Randy Chris Jim Haselberger, Ollie Bill Johnson, Denise K. Michael Landers, Mike Phil Prax, Mike Shafer, John Han, Mike Stoltz, DDS, and Kathy Tanner and Williamson.

See you next year, on 2004. Good hunting and let bird dogs!

Dick Hemmen  
Banquet Chairman  
Ruffed Grouse Society

## Skating Spectacle

The Fairbanks Figure Club would like to thank those who helped make our 20th "Spring Skating Spectacle" a great success. Special thanks to our wonderful artistic director Lisa Kriley and Michele club coaches—Debby Kristin Dean and Sara our great skaters and their parents, grandparents and other relatives and friends. Special thanks also to our actors, Jeffman, David Zuckerman, Lamoureux, Magali Keller and Josie Ton. Thanks to our ticket office University Safeway, Playhouse Sports, Hoitt's Music and McPeak's.

We also want to recognize individuals and business who donated funding, time, services and products toward the show: Purcell, John W. Sargent, Lynn E. Kriley (photographer), Bill Wright (videographer), Commercial Printing Co. Easton, Big Dipper Ice Polar Ice Arena, Fairbanks News-Miner, Tanana Valley Television, Fox TV 7, Resource for Parents and Children, Center—Kirk Patton, Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, Copies, Date-line Copies, Pizza 4-Less, DLS Supply Lighting & Sound System, Birch Tree Studio Toys, The Shirt Shop, Hill employees of Afterthought Services of America, Denis



MARC LESTER / Anchorage Daily News

rough trees while browsing near Middle Rock Road and Midden Way in the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood Friday. A calf also wandered

## Proposed cuts in education move to House opposition

Education: Schools priority,  
what's the alternative?

By ERHAM  
AN

Gov. Frank Murkowski's funding for schools is under fire in the state House. Rep. Pete Kott, R-Eagle, Monday that he expects strong support in the Legislature to keep the \$20 million grants and student bus-transportation cuts.

"I think there is enough importance put on K-12 education that most of the members I am talking to are going to be supportive of keeping it" in the budget, Kott said.

The House education budget subcommittee, a mix of Democrats and Republicans, recommends that lawmakers reject the proposed cuts, which would hit Learning Opportunity Grants and pupil transportation by about \$10 million each.

The cuts would be devastating to

See Page B-3, CUTS



■ FOR MORE information on the Alaska Legislature, including easy ways to contact legislators, visit [www.adn.com/legislature](http://www.adn.com/legislature)

## Bill 'a tool' to manage wolves

By JOEL GAY  
Anchorage Daily News

Sen. Ralph Seekins has introduced a bill to make it easier for the state to use aircraft while conducting wolf-kill programs.

The move comes amid renewed proposals to reduce predator numbers in the upper Susitna Valley, in the Nelchina Basin and around McGrath.

Critics called Senate Bill 155 an attempt to override science and popular opinion.

"It's terrible," said Paul Joslin, conservation biologist with the Alaska Wildlife Alliance.

See Page B-2, WOLVES

## Proposers to underwrite a spending spree



Maintaining streets are paid for means they are a tax bill. A bond is more costly than a tax, the \$7.27 cost \$4.40 per \$1 million cost \$1. But it's an emergency fund, will be a year to op-

and Drain-

age Service Area bond, Proposition 4, will cost \$25.60 per \$100,000 almost entirely because of its size: \$39.95 million. Proposition 7, the \$4.99 million parks and recreation bond, will cost only \$3.38.

The same cost differential occurs in the school bonds. Proposition 9, \$41.79 million worth of mainly school repairs, will cost \$9.97 per \$100,000. Proposition 10, \$42 million for a new administration building, will cost \$10.48, the difference being operations and maintenance charges. Proposition 11, \$125.54 million to build and renovate schools, will cost \$33.16. That's because Proposition 11 is larger, and it carries operations and maintenance price tag of \$2.4 million a year.

Okay, that was a blizzard of numbers. What do they all mean?

Simply that city and School District officials are asking us to underwrite a spending spree. Should we?

That depends in part on what you think of the specifics of each bond. Do you think Girdwood needs a new li-

brary? Proposition 3 would build it. The bonds would also buy the land and pay for the of a new library in Eagle River, and remodel the Loussac.

But voters don't often make up their minds like that. We rarely know the specifics of these bond packages. Instead, some of us cast our votes based on how we feel about the type of spending involved. If you are for libraries, you'll vote for Proposition 3.

There's some sense to this. The fact is, the specifics aren't sure things; money from bonds doesn't have to be spent on the promised projects. It usually is, but it doesn't have to be.

And the city isn't exactly overwhelming voters with information. Take Proposition 4. The information offered is a list of more than 50 projects with a typical entry reading, "Bayshore Drive surface rehab - 100th to Marathon Circle - design." How necessary is this project? Unless you drive that section of Bayshore, you'll never know. How much of the \$39.95 million does it cost? No way to tell.

So you're left to vote on whether you think street and drainage improvements are important, or whether you think the public works staff knows what it is doing.

Or you can vote based on your general sense of whether enough public money is being spent on road and drainage projects. My sense is that it is. Trying to build and maintain enough paved streets to handle the traffic in a northern city that relies entirely on the automobile and rests substantially on wetlands is a losing proposition. We'll never have a complete set of nicely paved roads. The question is, what level of cracks and potholes are you willing to live with?

Or you can vote on your reaction to how much money the city already takes out of your pocket, and how much more it wants this time. You've got the numbers. You can do the math.

■ Mike Doogan's opinion column appears each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. Reach him at 257-4350 or [midoogan@adn.com](mailto:midoogan@adn.com).

# WOLVES: Bill aims to empower wildlife managers

Continued from B-1

"The voters of Alaska passed ballot measures twice that said they didn't want to use aircraft for same-day airborne hunting of wolves. What Ralph Seekins has done is tried to reverse that."

Other people praised Seekins, a Fairbanks Republican, for giving wildlife managers another way to boost moose and caribou stocks. Regardless of how wolf control occurs and who does it, said McGrath resident and Board of Game member Mike Fleagle, "we'd like to see it done."

Many hunters and rural Alaskans blame wolves for reducing moose and caribou populations in some areas, which has limited subsistence and sport harvests. But attempts to establish wolf control programs have met strong resistance.

A successful tourism boycott in the early 1990s killed one. In 1996, voters banned land-and-shoot hunting. After the Alaska Legislature tinkered with the law in early 2000, voters approved another ballot measure that fall that reiterated their opposition to same-day airborne hunting.

Seekins' bill would not allow airborne sport hunting but would make it easier for the Fish and Game Department to pursue wolf control in approved areas.

The Legislature approve a predator control program in the mid-1990s. But the hurdles written into the law, and former-Gov. Tony Knowles' reluctance to approve wolf control, kept the regulations out of public view, said David James, the Department of Fish and Game's regional game supervisor in Fairbanks.

"It's not like somebody's trying to cook up something that's not already on the books," James said. The department has had authority to conduct airborne and land-and-shoot hunting, but only if certain criteria were met.

"If it all fits that template, bingo, the commis-

66

*Game Board member Fleagle and the Alaska Outdoor Council would prefer the hunting be left to the public.*

77

sioner can approve it."

Seekins said his measure would make it easier for game managers to put "intensive management" into practice by clarifying what he said are gray areas in the law. For example, the new language specifically permits "airborne or same-day airborne shooting." The existing bill authorizes "shooting from the air."

More important, Seekins said, SB 155 allows managers to make a pre-emptive strike against predators.

Under the existing law, the Board of Game can seek predator control only when the prey population — generally moose or caribou — has dropped below previously specified levels. His bill would allow predator control regardless of the prey population.

"It gives you a chance to manage without focusing on just one objective," such as the number of moose around McGrath or caribou around Nelchina, he said.

If the board approves a predator control plan for an area — it already has for all or parts of hunting units 13, 16 and 19 — and can convince the commissioner of Fish and Game that wolf numbers should be trimmed, the commissioner could authorize airborne shooting.

"It's not a philosophical game," Seekins said.

"It's the constitutional responsibility to manage for sustained yield. All we're saying is give managers a tool to let them manage. Don't tie their hands."

Who would do the shooting is still a question. Though the existing legislation requires the shooting be done by a state employee, "it might be smart to make it employee, agent or permit-tee," Seekins said.

The intent is to kill the predators "efficiently, effectively and professionally," he said. "My intent is not to turn loose a bunch of wild-eyed guys in a Super Cub."

Game Board member Fleagle and the Alaska Outdoor Council would prefer the hunting be left to the public, Fleagle said.

"If private citizens are given authority under the state, that's just fine," he said. "In reality, there's probably a lot of people who would pay to participate."

Opponents of wolf control say there must be better ways to put more moose into Alaskans' freezers than by shooting wolves from the air, Joslin said.

"What's really needed are better solutions than going after high-controversy stuff — like working to improve habitat."

He said he doubts state biologists have accurate population estimates in most areas, which makes any decision to kill wolves premature.

And a recent poll by Dittman Research Corp. of Alaska suggests that state residents still don't approve of airborne or land-and-shoot hunting, Joslin said.

"The Legislature ought to be aware their constituents will be very opposed to what they're doing," he said.

■ Daily News reporter Joel Gay can be reached at jgay@adn.com or at 257-4310.

## STATE IN BRIEF

### SELDOVIA

#### Kit plane crashes; pilot hurt

Dennis Pollard, 44, was seriously injured Sunday when the home-built plane he was flying crashed on takeoff in Seldovia. The Federal Aviation Administration said the engine suddenly lost power.

The engine suddenly lost power about the size of a Super Cub, about 150 feet in the air, according to the Transportation Safety Board. The land back on the runway in front of the runway hard and the pilot suffered injuries, an investigator said.

He said Monday he spoke to Pollard, who has been admitted to Providence Alaska Medical Center.

— Anchorage

### JUNEAU

#### Ship passengers might pay

A bill calling for a \$100 head tax on cruise ship passengers was introduced Monday in the Alaska House. Freshman Rep. Carl Gatto said he is sponsoring the bill because it would raise funds so the state doesn't have to spend on education.

The Department of Revenue estimates it could raise more than \$70 million a year from a projected 720,000 cruise ship visitors.

Gatto said the state constitution prohibits the state from reimbursing for use of its resources. He said it's reasonable that tourists pay for the use of the state's resources since hunters and loggers pay to use state land and timber.

House Bill 207 was assigned to the House Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism and Finance committees.

— The As

# MYSTROM: The former mayor wants to return to the good old days

Continued from B-1

The Wuerch administration has been too cozy with unions and too careless with taxpayers' money, Mystrom said. Under Wuerch's watch, the city

## RICK MYSTROM

Birth date: January 2, 1944

Q. What political figure (current or his-

members in that district."

Mystrom said he thinks he usually tried to consult Assembly members.

"Maybe we didn't always go to the Assembly as diligently as we should

time in clashing with the most powerful and most powerful resenting Anchorage's police and firefighters.

"In the entire time

# Wounded civilians overload hospitals

■ **CASUALTIES:** Weary, ill-equipped staffs tend to countless victims.

By ANTHONY SHADID  
The Washington Post

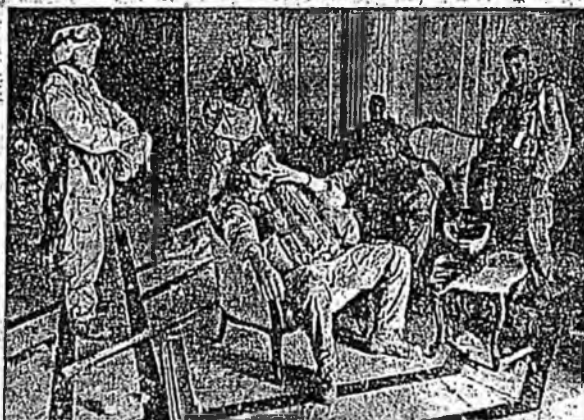
BAGHDAD — Its sirens wailing, the cream-colored ambulance barreled into the compound of Baghdad's Kindi Hospital. Doctors in blue scrubs — some of them working night and day — rushed forward, swinging open its doors.

Gingerly, they put Sabria

Hussein on a stretcher, its leather still soaked in blood. They moved toward another stretcher, driving away hordes of flies, and rolled Abdel-Karim Youssef into an emergency room suffused with the stench of blood, dirt and disinfectant.

Both were swathed in cream to conceal their burns, over both of Hussein's arms and along the face and hands of Youssef. The staff said nothing. The only sounds came from the slight

See Back Page, CIVILIANS



JOHN MODRE / The Associated Press

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Chad Touchett, center, relaxes with comrades from A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, following a search in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces damaged after a bombing Monday in Baghdad.

See Back Page, IRAQ

## Key developments

- U.S. Army tanks rumbled through downtown Baghdad, seizing one of Saddam Hussein's palaces.
- A U.S. bomber struck a Baghdad building where Saddam and other regime officials were believed to be. It was not clear whether anyone was killed or wounded.
- U.S. Marines surged across a shattered bridge into Baghdad, opening the way for thousands more from the southeast.
- The U.S. military is testing samples from a site in Iraq where soldiers found metal drums containing possible chemical weapons.
- Coalition warplanes struck Iraqi positions in the fight to advance on the two northern cities still in Iraqi control.
- To read another in a series of profiles of Alaskans in the war, see Page A-4. More profiles are online at [www.adn.com/iraq/alaskans](http://www.adn.com/iraq/alaskans)

# Governor takes heat from hunters expecting aerial wolf control

■ **MCGRATH:** Backers of state sharpshooters in copters feel betrayed.

By JOEL GAY  
Anchorage Daily News

Gov. Frank Murkowski is under fire from hunters who feel betrayed by his reluctance to authorize aerial wolf control near McGrath.

"It's 180 degrees from what he was saying during the campaign," said Chuck Gray, a longtime pilot and guide and former publisher of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

Last week Murkowski said he would not allow state employees to shoot wolves from helicopters, instead leaving the wolf control to hunters and trappers on the ground around McGrath.

That's tantamount to doing nothing, Gray said. He and others fear Murkowski has caved in to political pressure or fears of a tourism boycott like the one launched after Alaska's last wolf-kill program in the early 1990s.

"I think he's adopted a policy predicated on and subservient to threats from animal welfare and environmental interests," said Greg Roczicka, a former

Board of Game member from Bethel.

Advocates of killing wolves to boost moose and caribou populations had hoped for a quick-start to wolf control this spring, taking advantage of snow cover to track the animals. If nothing gets off the ground now, it'll be at least next winter before any wolf control can realistically occur, they say.

Murkowski denies that his position on wolf control has changed. He still supports "active wildlife management," he said Friday in Anchorage. But there are other methods of achieving the same ends short of using helicopters and state sharpshooters, he said.

"We've maintained predator control in other areas of Alaska without gunning 'em down

by helicopter," he said. "I'm not convinced it can't be done with the involvement of local people."

Though Murkowski didn't elaborate on his reasons for leaving state employees out of the McGrath wolf kill, he did note that wolf control "has a volatility that goes nationwide. We have to recognize that."

See Back Page, WOLVES

## GAME SHOW HIJINKS

# 'Millionaire' contestant found guilty of cheating way to top prize

*Coughs from friend in audience gave clues, aroused suspicion*

By JILL LAWLESS  
The Associated Press

LONDON — An army major, his wife and a college teacher were convicted Monday of using "coded coughs" to win the top prize on Britain's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

Charles Ingram maintained that luck, military training and strategy had helped him answer the \$1.55 million question — "A number 1 followed by 100 zeros is known

contest.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin upbraided the defendants for a "shabby schoolboy trick." But he spared them jail terms, giving them suspended sentences of a year to 18 months because they had been "shamed in the most public way and your reputations ruined." They were also ordered to pay thousands of dollars in fines and court costs.

"I am not at all sure that it was sheer greed that motivated this offense," he said.

## INSIDE

■ **GAS LINE**  
**GROUSING:** Backers of the All-Alaska Gasline initiative are upset with Gov. Frank Murkowski's decision to put \$150,000 into the plan. Scott

Alaska ..... D-1  
Anno's Mailbox . . . C-2  
Bridge . . . . . C-5  
Classified . . . . . E-1  
Comics . . . . . C-4  
Crossword . . . C-5, E-2  
Doogan . . . . . D-1  
Health . . . . . C-1  
Hometown . . . . D-2  
Horoscope . . . . C-5  
Letters . . . . . D-5  
Money . . . . . F-1  
Movies . . . . . C-2  
Obituaries . . . . D-7



4/8/03 ADN

try parade grounds, showcase Saddam's power oops and weapons. ad, roving bands of guerred fatigues roamed from ckpoint, providing glimpsy and lawlessness that esidents fear may await inhabitants are now witfor the first time in deets of their tarnished capers once nicknamed "the hers suffered this way,"

tanks and helicopters waiked unopposed into Basra's center and were greeted warmly by hundreds of residents, some of whom gave soldiers flowers in appreciation.

U.S. and British forces investigated two tantalizing but unconfirmed reports: the assassination of a top Iraqi general and the discovery of chemical warfare agents in a military compound on the Euphrates River.

British officials announced that Gen. Ali Hassan Majeed, a cousin of Saddam who is known as "Chemical Ali" for ordering a 1988 poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds in northern Iraq, was killed

denied it had taken place — even as journalists asking him questions watched fighting rage just across the Tigris.

"There is not any American presence or troops in the heart of the capital at all," he said. As he spoke, shelling, tank rounds and machine-gun fire reverberated relentlessly across the river — within sight of the hotel.

■ Patrick Tyler of The New York Times contributed to this story.

The injured moved through stations in brisk succession. After Hussein and Youssef were placed in beds, doctors rolled in Sayyid Hamid, a 24-year-old from Fahana, another village on Baghdad's outskirts.

"There was a missile that landed in front of my house," he said. His face was blank, the shock of his wound still settling in. Just before, doctors had amputated his left foot, below the ankle.

Through the door stood Qabil Khazzal Jumaa, a 30-year-old nurse on a smoke break. Over the past few days, he said, hospital staff members were stacking bodies on top of one another in the morgue. Outside the morgue, six bodies in black bags lay in the street. They were tied with plastic on each end and at the legs, waist and chest. Some were still open to the air, and flies had descended.

## Man obsessed

from A-1  
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Diana Ingram wrote an unpublished book, "Win A Million," in which she said her husband had spent \$3,100 on calls to the show's contestant hot line. After winning a chance on the show, he practiced daily on a mock-up "Fastest Finger First" keypad his brother-in-law had made from an old calculator casing.

Prosecutors said the Ingrams were tens of thousands of dollars in debt and had considered using a system of vibrating pagers to win.

In the end, they colluded with Whittock, a business lecturer, who was in the audience during the taping. He blamed Ingram for his coughing.

"It goes without saying that in any large group of people ... you will probably hear a lot of coughs, splutters, throat clearing, or whatever," prosecution lawyer Nicholas Hilliard told the jury.

But analysis of the episode revealed a pattern of "coughs made on mike" from Whittock's area of the audience.

## WOLVES: Hunt backers howl at copter decision

Continued from A-1

Some see that as an acknowledgment that state involvement in wolf killing would be controversial.

"The fact is, there are consequences," said Joel Bennett, a former game board member and Juneau representative of the national group Defenders of Wildlife. "People get upset, and there's a cost to pay for taking airplanes out and shooting an animal that's arguably a symbol of Alaska wilderness."

That sensitivity was not apparent when candidate Murkowski, in campaign literature, promised he would "reverse the trend of declining wildlife populations by actively managing wildlife for abundance" — shorthand for wolf control. He charged the Tony Knowles administration with dragging its feet on wolf control programs approved by the Board of Game and received strong support from hunting advocates.

Knowles stopped all lethal wolf control efforts shortly after taking office in 1994. During the Wally Hickel administration a few years earlier, a nationwide tourism boycott had prompted then-Fish and Game commissioner Carl Rosier to halt proposed aerial wolf control.

A ground-based wolf-reduction program in the Interior ended when traps and snares failed to kill the animals quickly. Photographs of snared moose and wolves with chewed-off paws caused Rosier to shelve that program too.

Voters also weighed in on the issue of wolf control in 1996 when they banned pri-

vate citizens from a practice known as land-and-shoot hunting. Ostensibly, hunters would track wolves from the air, land nearby and shoot them. Critics claimed hunters were abusing the law by either chasing the wolves to exhaustion before landing or shooting them from the air.

The Alaska Legislature overrode that action in 1999 by passing a law legalizing land-and-shoot hunting. That spurred yet another ballot measure in 2000 that reiterated voters' opposition.

In the meantime, the Department of Fish and Game still had several wolf control programs on the books. Chief among them is a plan to rebuild moose stocks in hunting area 19D-East, near McGrath, and many hunters expected the shooting to begin after Murkowski was elected.

But when the Board of Game last month asked Murkowski to send state employees to shoot wolves from helicopters, the governor balked.

Murkowski said Friday that he left the wolf control to rural residents, in part for economic development reasons.

"They've chosen to live out there. I want to support them in their effort to generate a livelihood from the land," he said. "This should not necessarily be the obligation of the state of Alaska to do that for them."

But, critics say ground-based predator control done by private hunters and trappers won't work.

"It sounds like the same criteria Knowles used," said Gray, a bounty hunter in the

1950s, "There can't be any effective predator control if you're going to have people do it with traps, snares and guns. We've been doing that for years."

Murkowski's decision also undercuts an experiment designed to test the basic theory of predator control. The McGrath program calls for eliminating all the predators in a 520-square-mile area, including relocating brown and black bears during the spring and closing the hunting season. Biologists hope the combined effort will allow moose stocks to rebound.

Now the wolves are unlikely to be eliminated, game board member Ted Spraker told a legislative committee last week.

"If you miss half the predators and do half the job, you can't expect more than half the results."

Ironically, Murkowski's decision to keep the state out of wolf control in McGrath puts him on the same side of the issue as Defenders of Wildlife, Bennett said.

"It was the right decision," especially if it was based on protecting Alaska from lawsuits and tourism boycotts, he said.

However, he added, it's hard to figure what Murkowski is thinking.

"A lot of people talk a good line in campaign rhetoric, then it bogs down" in political reality. "That's probably why we haven't seen much of this kind of (wolf control) activity."

■ Daily News reporter Joel Gay can be reached at jgay@adn.com or at 257-4310.

# Wilderness Inspirations™

*Featuring the images of  
Leo & Dorothy Keeler*



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e-mail: [info@akwildlife.com](mailto:info@akwildlife.com)  
<http://www.akwildlife.com>

SB 155 Testimony - Oppose Aerial Predator Control

4/30/2003

My name is Dorothy Keeler. Evidently, the potential for predator control to create a tourism boycott is being taken seriously. What this new version of Senate Bill 155 tries is a vain attempt to hide who would be responsible for one.

If this bill passes, Governor Murkowski will have created a state-sanctioned predator control program where he can't be directly blamed. If this bill passes, the Legislature has removed the Department of Fish & Game's final decision-making capacity, and the six Alaska Outdoor Council members now sitting on the Board of Game, who were not elected by the people and answer to no one, may have the power to bring the state of Alaska to its financial knees with a tourism boycott... a tourism boycott that they have a vested interest in prolonging. Initiating predator control to meet the harvest objectives set by the Board of Game is initiating a never ending predator control program. The objectives set were based on historic high harvest levels established after years of poisoning and aerial hunting of predators.

If this bill passes, you have asked the bullies of the playground to bankrupt the parents of all the other kids that want to use it. That is assuming the bullies really have the legal authority to do so.

Nothing would please the extremists in Alaska more! Their goal is to use the Governor, and now the Legislature, to drive out all those pesky non-consumptive users who dare try to share in the use of Alaska's wildlife resources.

Pass this bill, and a tourism boycott, more initiatives, and referendums are certain. Pass this bill, and be prepared to set aside a lot of money for the lawsuits that are just as certain.

Pass this bill, and you deserve the shame of knowing you trashed Alaska's tourism industry to benefit a handful of extremist hunters whose dream is to monopolize the use of Alaska's wildlife, and return to the good old days of massive statewide predator control.

Most sincerely,

  
Dorothy Keeler

**Subject: Support Senate Bill 155**

**Date:** Wed, 30 Apr 2003 20:04:55 -0800

**From:** "The Gentemanns" <gilligan@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Ogan,

One man's opinion; I support Senate Bill 155. Please help make it happen.

Thank you,  
Jim Gentemann  
Eagle River, AK

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Tue, 29 Apr 2003 10:51:30 -0800**

**From: Terry Sacora <sacora@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Mr Ogan, I would like to go on record as stating I am in favor of Senate Bill 155 to allow us more control of predators in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration on this bill.

Terry Sacora  
164 Sacia Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date: Tue, 29 Apr 2003 08:05:06 -0800**

**From: mestes@gci.net**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Hello Mr. Ogan, I just want to express my strong support of Senate Bill 155.

Thanks,

Mark Estes

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Tue, 29 Apr 2003 10:08:14 -0800

**From:** "Hamsley, Larry E." <lhamsley@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

I strongly support SB 155. I believe it is in the best interest for wildlife management.

This transmittal may contain confidential information intended solely for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this transmittal in error; any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (collect at 907-564-1000) and ask to speak with the message sender. In addition, please immediately delete this message and all attachments. Thank you.

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Tue, 29 Apr 2003 10:16:53 -0800 (AKDT)**

**From: sandwsnyder@webtv.net (Sam Snyder)**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator ,support SB 155 ,Thank You .  
Snyder

Sam

Have A Good Day Sam &Wilma

**Subject: Support of SB 155**

**Date: Tue, 29 Apr 2003 20:44:46 -0800**

**From: "Spotmom" <spotmom@mtaonline.net>**

**To: <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>**

Senator Ogan,

This is a copy of my last letter in support of this issue. I feel I cannot put it any better so I am sending it on to you. Thanks for your help and support in issues like these!

\*\*\*\*\*

SB 155

We are in full support of both same day airborne and from the air predator control. We need predator control in many game management units to get the balance back and increase the moose populations for those of us who would like to return to our normal areas for taking moose to fill the freezer. Our last caribou hunt into unit 13 we spent 6 days in the field and saw only 2 moose and a handful of caribou. We used to wake up to dozens of moose around the tent.

People who complain about this not being "fair chase" are misguided and uninformed. OF COURSE this is not "fair chase"! The object is to reduce the number of wolves, not play with them. The fastest and easiest way is the best way and would ultimately save the state money by getting the program done and over with as quickly as possible.

Human beings are part of the scheme of nature, also. We are as much a predator as the wolf and bear. Some people have gotten too far from these roots. To those of us who are still living off game meat, keeping game populations healthy (so there is enough for us *and* the wolves and bears) is very important. There is no reason to have the boom and bust cycles in game populations. Keeping predators in check, in the most efficient manner, will keep things good for all of us.

Sincerely,

Rodney J. Herrin and

Cathy L. Herrin

P.O. Box 2451

Palmer, AK, 99645

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Tue, 29 Apr 2003 20:52:59 -0700 (PDT)**

**From: Emma Lee and Joe Grennan <elgrennan@yahoo.com>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

We stronly support SB155 !

Alaskans Emma Lee & Joe Grennan  
of Fairbanks

---

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**Subject: S.B. 155**

**Date:** Wed, 30 Apr 2003 08:54:49 -0800

**From:** Edgar J Rape <erape@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

yes to SB 155

**Subject:** SB 155

**Date:** Thu, 01 May 2003 22:31:25 -0800

**From:** "Dave Esch" <daveesch@msn.com>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

I support the Outdoor Council and the passage of SB 155 to establish at least SOME real wolf control in this state. I do not believe that every moose and caribou calf should live in terror of attack by wolves!! We are killing the "children" because wolves look too much like friendly dogs instead of the assassins they really are.

Having lived here for 40 years, I have seen the steady decline of moose and of certain caribou herds. But saving wolves for viewing? In hunting Alaska for at least 80 trips, most by air charter, I have only seen two wolves in the wild, but see many tracks!. And those wolves seen were on the north border of McKinley;  
Wolves hunt by night! So the tourist ain't goona see um either, unless we tame some!!!

---

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**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date:** Tue, 29 Apr 2003 05:21:30 -0700 (PDT)

**From:** John Thies <chefjdt@yahoo.com>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Sir, Please support SB 155. Thank you, John Thies 7837 Raymar Cir.  
Anchorage, AK. 99518

---

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<http://search.yahoo.com>

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Tue, 29 Apr 2003 05:53:40 -0800

**From:** "Ken Book" <kbook@worldnet.att.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

I support SB 155 and urgently request your support, too, of this important measure.

Ken Book  
6584 Vista Drive  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**Subject: SB 155 & SB 39**

**Date:** Tue, 29 Apr 2003 06:42:51 -0800

**From:** Joe/Brenda Donohue <donohue-j@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Please note that I am in favor of SB 155. I think that reauthorizing airborne take and same day airborne take predator control measures is a step in the right direction for accomplishing predator management and rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations.

I am also very much in favor of your SB 39. I have been using the State's navigable waters for better than 45 years and I think they should be controlled by the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time and attention to these matters.

Joe Donohue  
PO Box 20652  
Juneau, AK

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 18:18:12 -0800**

**From: ben barclay <benbarclay@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Ogan,

Please consider my full support for the passage of SB155 to allow same day airborne hunting and the taking of wolves from the air. Alaska is in desperate need of predator control and this bill will be a step in the right direction to help rebuild our moose and caribou populations. Please stand firm in the face of all the emotional cries against predator control and pass this legislation. Thank you.

Ben Barclay, P.E.  
6745 Paula Pl.  
Anchorage, AK 99507

**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 17:22:03 -0800**

**From: "Harry S Cellos" <H.Cellos@conocophillips.com>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Ogan,

I strongly support same day fly & shoot of predators as needed for responsible game management and optimization of our resources.

Regards,

Harry

This bill authorizes airborne or same day airborne take of predators (wolves) by the public only in areas authorized by the Board of Game and only in areas where big game populations are not being met for human harvest. As expected, this bill is being vigorously opposed by animal rights groups both within and outside of Alaska. AOC supports this legislation for the following reasons:

- 1) Alaska's big game populations are depressed in many areas (Units 13, 19, 17, 16, among others) and this legislation will give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to re-establish healthy big game populations.
- 2) This bill is based on sound science - it's tied to adopted management plans, it only applies to areas where big game populations are depressed, and same day airborne or airborne management can only be employed if authorized by the Board of Game.
- 3) This legislation helps take the politics out of wildlife management - it will allow management plans that were politically shelved during the Knowles Administration to again be considered in the light of scientific merit.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

**Subject: SB155**

**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 17:00:03 -0800

**From:** "Graham, Mark" <GRAHAM@alaska.coffman.com>

**To:** "Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Ogan,

I appreciate your support to pass a bill for predator control in Alaska.

Thanks

Mark A. Graham  
Eagle River, AK

**Subject: In Support of SB155**

**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 16:56:15 -0800

**From:** "Hollis, Harold" <HOLLIS@alaska.coffman.com>

**To:** "'Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Ogan,

Please consider my full support for the passage of SB155 to allow same day airborne hunting and the taking of wolves from the air. Alaska is in desperate need of predator control and this bill will be a step in the right direction to help rebuild our moose and caribou populations. Please stand firm in the face of all the emotional cries against predator control and pass this legislation. Thank you.

Harold L. Hollis, P.E.  
Coffman Engineers, Inc.  
800 F Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907/276-6664  
907/276-5042 Fax  
hollis@alaska.coffman.com  
www.coffman.com

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 16:38:42 -0800 (AKDT)**

**From: olesandy@webtv.net (ole or Sandy)**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Just want to let you know we have discussed predator control around ye olde coffee table mornings; and I would have to say 99% of the people I talk to are in favor of it; especially as addressed in this bill. Canada has done wonderful things with the caribou populations by controlling the wolves by shooting and by "fixing" the alpha males so they cant reproduce. As a result, I believe, this past year was the first time in 50 years that the Porcupine Caribou herd crossed the Yukon River.

This is a good thing; and we have lots of wolves...

Ole Bartness

9025 Ninnis Dr.

Juneau, Ak. 99801

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 19:24:10 -0800 (AKDT)**

**From: dwmillard@webtv.net (Dave Millard)**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

By all means work for pasage of SB 155.

Sincerely,

Dave Millard

**Subject:**

**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 18:57:38 -0800

**From:** "Les Fortune" <lesfortune@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Ogan,  
I am in favor of the passage of SB155.  
Les Fortune

Les Fortune  
1109 Coppet St.  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
474-0507

---

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Airborne same day = wolves

**Subject:** Airborne same day = wolves  
**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 19:52:09 -0800  
**From:** Gene Yockey <geneyock@gci.net>  
**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Ogan,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. I strongly support it.

Gene Yockey  
Palmer, Alaska

**Subject: Senate Bill 155:**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 21:52:46 -0700**

**From: Darrell Svihl <dlhivs@chugach.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Ogan, it's time we give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to manage big game populations. It's time Alaska does what's best for Alaska. Not what outside animal rights groups think is best for Alaska. We live here. We have seen how the predators they have taken over in Units 13, 19, 17, 16, among others. Big game populations are depressed in many areas, in order to re-establish healthy big game populations Senate Bill 155: Has to be passed.

Darrell Svihl

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 22:01:38 -0800**

**From: The Aulmans <aulman@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Ogan,

This is to let you know that I am in favor of this bill. ADF&G has the unenviable job of managing the states wildlife and they should be left alone so that they can accomplish that goal. Thank you, Harry Aulman

**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 22:32:04 -0800

**From:** Barney & Debbie <bardeb@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

**Senate Bill 155:**

This bill authorizes airborne or same day airborne take of predators (wolves) by the public only in areas authorized by the Board of Game and only in areas where big game populations are not being met for human harvest. As expected, this bill is being vigorously opposed by animal rights groups both within and outside of Alaska. I support this legislation for the following reasons:

- 1) Alaska's big game populations are depressed in many areas (Units 13, 19, 17, 16, among others) and this legislation will give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to re-establish healthy big game populations.
- 2) This bill is based on sound science - it's tied to adopted management plans, it only applies to areas where big game populations are depressed, and same day airborne or airborne management can only be employed if authorized by the Board of Game.
- 3) This legislation helps take the politics out of wildlife management - it will allow management plans that were politically shelved during the Knowles Administration to again be considered in the light of scientific merit.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

I urge you to help us get this bill passed.  
Thank you for your consideration  
Barney Booyesen

**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date: Mon, 28 Apr 2003 22:39:23 -0800**

**From: Robert Bundtzen <bundtzen@alaska.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Ogan

I am strongly in favor of Senat Bill 155 authorizing airborne predator control by the public when authorized by the Board of Game. Please help pass it

Sincerely,  
Robert Bundtzen

**Subject: senate bill 155**

**Date:** Mon, 28 Apr 2003 23:17:58 -0800

**From:** "Doug Frederick / Sportsmens Paradise" <dfrederick@starband.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

this is a bill that this state really needs. I has been proven many times that this is the only effective means of predator control that we have ever come up with. In the late 40 and 50's there was no big game in this country and the government started predator control. By the 60's it was impressive the abundance of moose, caribou and sheep that we had and we still had wolves but we were controlling their numbers.

Thank You

Doug Frederick

54 year resident of this great state

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date: Sat, 26 Apr 2003 10:48:11 -0800**

**From: "Cleve Noble Jr" <c.i.noblejr@worldnet.att.net>**

**To: <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>**

Senator Ogan,

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to support and help get SB 155 scheduled for hearing before the Senate Resources Committee.

I believe that SB 155 is based on sound game management studies. And will benefit the non-hunters as well as the hunters. We all want to see more game and I believe SB 155 will help all of us see more game in the future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Cleve I. Noble Jr.

P.O. Box 4222

Palmer, AK 99645

907-232-5906

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date: Thu, 25 Apr 2002 09:58:07 -0700**

**From: Tom Brollini <tbrollini@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator;

I want to take the opportunity to place my strongest support behind SB 155.

I feel it is of utmost importance to get this legislation passed; for a number of reasons.

You have heard all of these in the below paragraph many times, but my last point below the paragraph is what I feel is the most important.

SB 155 is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations, SB 155 is based on sound science, SB 155 will allow scientifically based predation management plans that have set on the shelf for years to be implemented, SB 155 will give professional managers more tools to manage wildlife for abundance, Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

All the above are well know & promulgated by various groups but above all.....

We need to take control of our State!!!!

We need to get the Feds, Greenies, & all the other out of state liberal, eco terrorists out of our lives. Etc. etc. etc.

Thanks for your help,

Tom Brollini

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Fri, 25 Apr 2003 21:30:31 -0800

**From:** "Bill Miller" <bmillier@alaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

t stongly support the above bill and hope you help pass it

**Subject: SB155**

**Date:** Fri, 25 Apr 2003 20:36:03 -0800

**From:** "Jim DeFreest" <jwdef@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

I urge you to support SB155 for much needed predator control. Thanks Scott, Jim DeFreest

**Subject:** SB155

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 10:14:09 -0800

**From:** dickgun <dickgun@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Ogan,

As you may not be surprised to hear, I strongly support SB155 and urge that it be heard by the Senate Resources Committee soon and brought to the floor for a vote this session. Time is of the essence. We cannot afford to lose another winter of managing and harvesting this valuable resource. I am taking the liberty of faxing you my thesis for wolf management which was first presented to the BOG in 1989. My thesis does not promote the screaming red flag waving of PREDATOR CONTROL. It is based solely on a controlled harvest (maximum sustained yield) of a valuable resource. However, it depends on Methods and Means that will allow the harvest quotas to be reached by the public. Ample precedent is already set for same day airborne harvests of both caribou and deer. The language would help to defuse the anti wolf harvest groups - or at least give the rhetoric a different emphasis which they would have to address.

Sincerely,  
dickgun

**Subject: Same day airborne predator control**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 10:32:19 -0800

**From:** Gabrielle Russell <G.Russell@uaf.edu>

**To:** Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Tom\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Mike\_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Ralph\_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Sharon\_Cissna@legis.state.ak.us, "Representative- Albert Kookesh"@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_David\_Guttenbeg@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Thomas\_Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Fred\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Ben\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Kim\_Elton@legis.state.ak.us

Greetings,

My name is Gabrielle Russell and I am a Fairbanks resident who is against the current administrations plans for predator control.

First of all, I think it is important to remind everyone that in 1996, Alaskan voters passed a ballot initiative against same-day airborne hunting of wolves, and in 2000, we overturned (at the ballot box) an effort by the legislature to reinstate airborne hunting of wolves.

Both of these issues were obviously directly related to Alaskans feelings on predator control. We, the majority of Alaskans in these 2 cases, voted against predator control. But now we come to find out that we wasted our time participating in the voting process, because 3 years later the issue is back. Frankly, I am insulted that when the majority of Alaskans vote on an important issue such as predator control, that it seems to mean nothing to the government officials that either seem to have their own agenda, or simply do not respect what the majority of their fellow Alaskans have decided. WE DID NOT VOTE TWICE ON THIS ISSUE TO BE IGNORED.

So here we are again, the issue is resurfacing because hunters feel that there aren't enough moose or caribou for them to harvest. Well, when you subsist on a natural resource (wildlife in this case) you have to expect times of lower harvest and times of abundance. Fish and game is there to balance the levels of harvest and make this resource available to Alaskans. I would have to say that lately it seems that Fish and Game only wants to represent the interest of those Alaskans that view wildlife as a resource to be killed and eaten, or in some cases to be killed and hung on a wall, not those of us that think our natural resources are to be enjoyed by all Alaskans.

I thought that hunting and subsisting meant living off the land and what nature provides us (whether nature providing for us equates to predator control to increase maximum sustainable harvest, is up for debate) But, for those Alaskans that are subsisting, that is the way they have chosen to live their lives, I support that, but a subsistence lifestyle is difficult, and rightly so. It requires going back to the basic instinct of survival, and competing with other predators (humans being at the top of the predator chain with our guns and all) for food. Wolves, for the most part kill moose who are weakly or sickly, there is a sort of natural balance.

If those that sport hunt or live a subsistence lifestyle just want Moose to be sitting outside their cabins in an abundant herd ready to be shot, (which seemsto be a summation of some of the comments I have read), then why not just farm moose? If you don't want to compete with wolves than, why not just farm moose? Take out the hunting and camping and spending time in the wilderness tracking the moose, seeing the other wildlife, and being a sportsman. It might be a bit extreme, but then so is killing off the supposed competition. What is the real competition anyway? It wouldn't be our fellow humans now would it, maybe we are the predator that needs to be controlled?

Historically, we have done a rather good job of over harvesting our natural resources, (Wolf or other predation, other than human predation has never resulted in the extinction of a species) and honestly with the way the state of affairs are now, I don't trust the board of fish and game to be looking out for the interests of all Alaskans. It seems to me that they are experiencing a little selective hearing.

But, you know what? I didn't vote TWICE on this issue just to be

Same day airborne predator control

ignored. Those are my comments,

Thank you for your time,

Gabrielle Russell

Fairbanks

re: SB 155

**Subject:** re: SB 155

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 13:01:24 -0800

**From:** "LesLee Solberg" <denaliviewbb@worldnet.att.net>

**To:** <senator\_scott\_ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Ogan,

Please help Alaska's game populations by passing SB 155. This allows for some management of predators where the prey-predator populations need help. We have lived here for 32 years and have experience our moose herd diminish to non-existent. Please help our game.

Norman Solberg

Norman Solberg

Denali View

HC89 Box 8360, 15669 East Coffee Lane

Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 phone/fax 907-733-2778

email: [info@denaliview.com](mailto:info@denaliview.com)

URL: <http://www.denaliview.com>

**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Thu, 24 Apr 2003 13:52:40 -0800**

**From: "cliff" <cjudkins@customcpu.com>**

**To: "Scott Ogan" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>**

Senator Ogan-Please schedule a hearing for SB155. Passage of this legislation this session would be a great help to the Board of Games attempts to deal with serious predator control problems in areas of the state where moose, caribou, and sheep populations have been devastated by predators. Cliff Judkins

**Subject:** Fish and Game matters

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 23:21:10 -0700

**From:** Wayne Heimer <weheimer@alaska.net>

**To:** senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
senator\_Gary\_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us,  
representative\_Jim\_Holm@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_John\_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us

**To:** Distribution

**From:** Wayne Heimer

1098 Chena Pump Road

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

**Re:** What the "same-day" wolf hunt legislation indicates, an analysis and prescription

As I consider the reasons I think are driving the "same-day airborne" wolf control bills, it seems the interventions of the Governor's office regarding methods of wolf harvest have maneuvered the Legislature into a jurisdictional disagreement with the Administration over which entity should either "manage" or "set policy." Paradoxically, the Administration's abdication of its appointment authority to the Legislature (in cutting a deal with the Board to let it select the Deputy Commissioner of Wildlife) seems to have exacerbated this distracting disagreement. Please bear with me as I develop my thinking on this matter.

#### Recent history:

The Governor wanted Commissioner Duffy from the outset. Unfortunately, it seems Duffy came with two "pre-designated" Deputy Commissioners. Neither of them had compelling professional qualifications to serve at that level. Compounding the problem, both were strongly fish-oriented. As a result, the Board of Game refused to nominate Duffy for Commissioner of ADF&G. To get Duffy, the Administration apparently made a deal with the Board of Game allowing it to "select" the Deputy Commissioner of Game. (This is the abdication of appointing authority mentioned above.) Apparently, the Governor's office did not stick to the terms of this 'deal' as it was understood by the Board, as one candidate is said to have been 'hired and fired' the same day. This had to have a chilling effect on the process, and raise the question of whether the Administration was dealing honestly with the Board. Additionally, the Administration balked at certifying wolf control was necessary in the McGrath area. These are helpful things. Compounding the problem, the Administration has opposed (perhaps rightly) the remedial legislation because it limits the Administration's "veto power" with respect to wolf control. As things have evolved, this situation has developed into a separation of powers issue between the Legislature and the Administration. I'll discuss this in more detail later.

#### Some related ancient history:

"Deputy Commissioner" has traditionally been an *ad hoc* position in the administration of fish and game. I can remember only a few "Deputy Commissioners" during my 25 years with ADF&G. They were typically appointees given specific responsibilities within the commissioner's office. That is, they were simply special assistants to the commissioner who were given the title, "Deputy Commissioner" rather than "Special Assistant." The real work of managing the Department's Divisions has always fallen to experienced professionals called "Directors." Hence, I see no functional necessity for "Deputy Commissioners" unless they are to be the *de facto* Directors with a loftier title. If this is so, we should no longer have need for the position of "Director" in any Division of ADF&G; and the Deputy Commissioners should be experienced professionals with above average talents and leadership abilities.

Hence, the issue of "Deputy Commissioners" seems clouded in concept, raising the question, "What would these persons do?"

### **The disagreement between the Administration and the Legislature:**

The disagreement over who should appoint whom, and what they should do seems to have grown into the larger issue, "*Who 'manage' and who sets management policy?*"

In the wake of the Governor's intervention in the methods and means to be used in wolf control, and his assertion that wolf control should be "fair chase," it has become clear that the Board is an extension of the Legislature while the Commissioner's Office is within the Administration. Given that the Administration has decided to intervene in the nuts and bolts of how some wolves might die, the "policy" or "authority" question has been escalated to the level of a significant disagreement.

The rub seems to be that the Governor's office "trespassed" on the Legislature's "turf" (the Board of Game, because the Board is an extension of the Legislature) as he prescribed methods, means, and defined the philosophy of wolf control. "Philosophy" (i.e. the fair chase requirement) *may* be the province of the Administration (through the Commissioner's management authority), but methods and means have traditionally been recognized as the province of the Board. Clearly, the Legislature thinks it needs to do something to keep the Administration in its proper place.

The Legislature's response (the "aerial wolf control bills") seem aimed at empowering the Board of Game with more "management authority" by removing a philosophically fickle Governor's office from the management loop. The issue seems to be a, thus-far polite struggle over who sets what is apparently thought of as "policy."

The way I see it, the Legislature wants to preclude an obstructionist Governor's office (seen as distressingly parallel to the Knowles Administration's intervention in wolf control) from intervening in the nuts and bolts of wolf (and, by extension wildlife) management. When the Governor's office intervenes (on things as trivial as methods and means) it must rationalize the intervention under the commissioner's latitude (i.e. the Governor's philosophy expressed through his commissioner) to establish "policy." The "fair chase" issue (policy) is clearly philosophically, or perhaps economically driven-given a threatened tourism boycott. If we're not careful, this could devolve into a semantic argument with long-term consequences.

Alaska Statute, Title 16, says one duty of the commissioner (by extension, the Administration's duty) is to "manage." By my lights, this means implementing the Constitutional imperatives for maximum production of human benefits for Alaskans (within the conservation mandate's sideboards). In reality, there isn't much "room" for adjusting policy in this area. The Constitution and its enabling legislation have already set the policy. Nevertheless, it looks to me like the issue of who appoints whom, and how they stand on the methods and means of killing a few wolves has been confused with "policy." I think we're being trapped by the logic of language here, and a careful look at what we are trying to do would be helpful.

Certainly the commissioner can't "manage" without rational allocations by the Board. This means the Legislative and Executive branches must work together. From where I sit, the Legislature seems to have the high ground in the present spat. Nevertheless, *the way it should be* requires defining specific management policy by melding species biology with Constitutional mandate (that sticky gob of common use/maximum sustained yield/abundance/etc.). As our understanding of species biology grows or laws change, policy must be altered to conform. However, when the policy *de jour* is established (and it shouldn't be open to that much argument), getting "management" done to produce benefits for Alaskans

requires allocation of harvests by the Board.

**Wolves (and other predators) compete with humans for the benefits produced by management.**

The sticking point with managing wolves is whether the Board must allocate "wolf harvests" to a control program or whether the Commissioner can simply "manage" them in the most efficient and biologically rational manner with respect to "sustained yield" (abundance) of prey species to produce human benefits in the form of wildlife use for food.

My reading of the Constitution (and Coghill and Campbell's Sustained Yield treatise) suggests that wolves (among other predators) are not to receive "sustained yield/abundance" management protections through the Board process. Hence, I question whether the Board must approve wolf control programs, methods and means and so forth. This is a legal question that should probably be re-addressed. In the end, resolution of this legal question should produce the most satisfactory answer to the Administration/Legislature disagreement over who "manages" and "how." As it stands today, this wolf management issue raises a plethora of nettlesome questions.

If the Board must allocate wolves to a control program (the present interpretation because the Department (i.e. Administration) settled out of court with the wolf protectionists in the mid 1970s and again in the mid 1980s), does that mean the Board has 'set policy' or usurped the commissioner's prerogative? If the Commissioner's Office has shifted its responsibility to the Board (because the Administration settled out of court to facilitate wolf control in the past), does this mean the Administration has abdicated its responsibility/authority? Furthermore, if the Board defines methods and means to harvest the allocated wolves for the purposes of management, does that mean it is "managing"? I'd like to think not, but that seems to be where we are.

I suggest the reason we are in this mess stems from the misapprehension that setting methods and means is a policy decision. This seems to be where the Governor got into the mix, and precipitated the tension between who sets policy (i.e. 'manages'), the Legislature or the Governor. I think this an unproductive exercise in defending uncertain turf when co-operation should be the answer.

**Skip this next part if I haven't captured your interest; it gets a little philosophical, but I consider it useful background:**

Since the Administration's election campaign commitment to "scientific management" lies at the root of this issue, permit me to talk a little science. In biology, it is axiomatic that "function" drives "structure." That is, if for some reason (say environmental change) there's nothing for an existing biological structure to do, it seems to simply vanish because it serves no useful function. That is, it provides no adaptive benefit to the critter that's carrying it around, and it costs energy to maintain so the first critter that is born without the useless structure has a reproductive advantage and is more successful (because it doesn't have to feed and carry the useless structure around). Hence, the structure is lost.

Consequently, in biology and nature, *function* may accurately be said to drive *structure*. Unfortunately bureaucracy isn't as harsh at selecting for *function* among its *structures* as nature is. This means bureaucratic "structure" seems to persist regardless of whether it is productive or not. This is probably because the 'energy' (read money) fueling bureaucracy is seldom understood to be limiting, and hence useless structures are not only allowed to persist, but also cultivated.

**Now, back to the issue at hand:**

In any case, we seem to have a disagreement over "structure" here, and it seems to be obscuring the function we are trying to achieve.

Given that the Constitution sets our policy and direction, that the Administration is simply supposed to be implementing Constitutional policy, and that no management is possible if the Board doesn't allocate harvests, how a wolf dies (or doesn't) simply isn't that important to the larger picture. What is important is that the wolf stops out-competing humans for scarce prey, which has been pre-allocated (by the Constitution) to humans.

I suggest it is important for the Legislature to work with the Administration to achieve this function. Conversely, the Administration had best get a clear view of what it actually is supposed to be doing when it "manages" if it wants to maintain its claim to Constitutionally-mandated scientific management. The structural separation of powers/responsibilities is important, but perhaps less so than the function of producing benefits for Alaskans. Hence, my assessment that the Legislature has the higher ground in this discussion.

The thinking that the Governor's office is appropriately involved in micro-managing the wildlife of Alaska (beyond appointing the Commissioner to fulfill a defined function and produce defined benefits) is an unrecognized legacy from the Knowles Administration. That administration micro-managed both the Commissioner's Office and the chronically un-confirmed Board so there was no disagreement. Paradoxically, the situation has changed structurally, but not functionally. We have an administration seemingly intent on micro-managing the Board it appointed. This is bound to cause trouble with the Legislature. Consequently, the whole business is getting more complex than necessary. I realize there will be some distress in sorting this out, and I wish you the best in encouraging cooperation (however coercive you must be in the shorter term) between the Legislature and the Administration. I am uncertain that empowering the Board to manage beyond allocating and formally involving it in policy will be productive in the long term.

### **So what?**

I suggest that sending the Governor a message by not confirming his selected commissioner would be the best way to open a more productive dialog. The Governor should be encouraged to try harder to find a qualified commissioner, and then stay out of things. THAT would be a refreshing change, but one consistent with the intent of the Alaskan Constitution and its enabling legislation. I suggest we're in the present mess because past Legislatures have abdicated their responsibility to "check and balance" former Gubernatorial appointments to the Commissioner's Office. Is there a better explanation?

**Subject:** SB 155

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 21:11:04 -0800 (AKDT)

**From:** dvmillard@webtv.net (Dave Millard)

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Sen. Ogan

I fully support SB 155. It is the only realistic way to effect predator control. It worked in the 40's and 50's and it will work again if allowed to.

Trapping does not produce the thinning effect that is needed.

I would like to see this bill brought up as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dave Millard

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 21:33:31 -0800

**From:** "dennis wheeler" <dwheeler38@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

I support SB 155. I expect you to support it also.

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**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 14:06:08 -0000

**From:** "Wayne Kubat" <args@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

**Matanuska/Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

Wayne Kubat, Chair

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

ph. & fax: 376-9568

email: args@mtaonline.net <mailto:args@mtaonline.net>

April 24th, 2003

Senator Scott Ogan,

It seems lately, that the bulk of management efforts by ADF&G and the BOG, has been spent on restrictions to see who gets the last sheep or moose, after populations have severely declined due to a lack of predator and prey management. Resident, non-resident and subsistence user groups have been divided and fight amongst each other. Hunters have lost opportunity, anti hunting groups have gained momentum - often under the false guise of watchable wildlife, and the wildlife resource has suffered greatly. Our committee is very encouraged with the knowledge, and experience of the current BOG members, and their commitment to managing our wildlife resources for abundance using sound science.

We would like to see aggressive action to help rebuild struggling ungulate populations as quickly as possible. People in the valley have a long history of filling their freezers with wild meat, and we want that tradition to continue. Our committee feels that ethical and fair chase hunting and harvesting techniques should always be used first to manage predators and prey. However, if these measures and reasonable hunting seasons and bag limits cant keep predators and prey ratios in check, the use of "cost effective" and "species specific" strategies that can be stopped quickly when goals are met need to be implemented.

In the case of wolves, we think that "same day airborne -- land-and-shoot" or "aerial shooting" "control" programs in which the public participates to reduce state costs are the most practical options.

We support SB 155 which would allow the Board of Game to authorize a predator management program involving *airborne or same day airborne taking of predators, especially* in GMU 13, 19D, and 16B. Please schedule SB 155 for a hearing so it can pass the committee and be set to the floor for a vote. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Wayne Kubat - Chair

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Thu, 24 Apr 2003 22:45:46 -0800

**From:** "Ed Kern" <edkern@ptialaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Ogan:

The issue of same day airborne predator control is important to all of us who hunt for subsistence meat. My experience over the past 42 years in Unit 13 is that current methods of predator control are not working . We need new tools to improve the production of meat animals for Alaskans.

Your support is appreciated.

Ed Kern

Dear Representatives, and Senators,

I am sending you this message to tell you Not to pass House Bill 208. Which will allow Same-Day-Airborne Predator Control. We the people of Alaska have already voted on this initiative twice. We have not changed OUR minds. I am telling you as a Representative and Senator of the people to do the Will of the people as we elected you to do and Vote NO on this Bill

Thank You,  
Judy Calder

**Subject:**

**Date:** Wed, 23 Apr 2003 11:59:55 -0800

**From:** "Judy Calder" <djcalder@ptialaska.net>

**To:** <Representative.HughFate@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Representative.Beverly.Masek@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Representative.Carl.Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Representative.Cheryll.Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>,


<Representative.Bob.Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Representative.David.Guttenbeg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator.Scott.Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Senator.Thomas.Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator.Fred.Dyson@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Senator.Ben.Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator.Kim.Elton@legis.state.ak.us>,

<Senator.Georginna.Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us>

 Dear Representatives.doc	<b>Name:</b> Dear Representatives.doc <b>Type:</b> WINWORD File (application/msword) <b>Encoding:</b> base64
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**Subject: SB155**

**Date: Tue, 22 Apr 2003 10:15:47 -0800**

**From: Bill Kopplin <bkopplin@mosquionet.com>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Ogan,

I am writing in regards to SB 155. I feel that the original bill was okay, but the addition of Section 2 is not in the best interest of the Game Board and for the State of Alaska. The wording in Section 2 says the Game Board "shall" have the power to develop a wolf control program should be changed to "may" develop a program. The word "shall" instead of "may" makes the bill set up a very possible confrontation with the Governor. The Governor will only be able to approve or veto the Board's program. There will be no ability by the Governor to adjust the proposal.

This also prevents the Fish and Game Commissioner from conducting a finding to see if there is a real need and the best way biologically to accomplish the objective. Using "shall" gives the Game Board the power to develop a program and then mandates the Governor and the Game Dept. to carry it out with no input from Fish and Game or the Governor. This will set the stage for problems between the Board and the Governor that we do not need.

The change will not diminish the Boards authority to develop and carry out these programs, but simply to try not to set up any more roadblocks as possible. I feel it would be in everyone's best interest to change that one word in Section 2.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

William Kopplin  
P.O. Box 192  
Ester, AK 99725



Marilyn E & Wade C Henry  
1530 Crescent Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99508-5003

APR 25 2003

April 21, 2003

Scott Ogan  
State Capitol, Rm. 103  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ogan:

We will not write you often, but occasionally a matter will come up on which we feel strongly. Airborne predator control is one of those matters. We object vigorously to this war against wolves that seems to be fueled by sportsmen who do not want any competition for their prey. The wolf usually mates for life and is a devoted parent and provider. Wolves have been destroyed for the most part in the Lower 48, but surely they can live here in Alaska. HB208 and SB155 should be defeated and we do hope you will contribute to their defeat. This method of control is unwise and unfair and at the very least unsporting. Man has rarely been successful in his adjustment of the numbers of wild animals and it should not be attempted in this way. Nature is still the best regulator of the animal world.

Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

  
Wade and Marilyn Henry

Wolf control

**Subject:** Wolf control

**Date:** Sun, 20 Apr 2003 08:58:39 -0800

**From:** "J.P.\Jake\Jacobson" <huntfish@ak.net>

**To:** "Sen. Ralph Seekins" <senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** "Rep. Gary Stevens" <Senator\_Gary\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Ogg, Dan" <Representative\_Dan\_Ogg@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Rep. Scott Ogan" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>,  
"Sen.Gary Wilken" <Senator\_Gary\_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello Senator Seekins & others,

4-20-03

Allowing private individuals to take wolves the same day airborne by land & shoot or, more effectively, by shooting from the air is the most sensible, cost effective & overall best method of relieving predation on our moose.

I hope you are successful in this endeavor.

Thank you,

Jake Jacobson, Kodiak & Kotzebue

**Subject: SB 155--why we do not need aerial wolf control**

**Date: Fri, 18 Apr 2003 16:26:47 -0800**

**From: "Paul Joslin" <paul@akwildlife.org>**

**To: <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>**

Senator Ogan,

SB 155 is a bad piece of legislation and the people of this great state are depending on your help to ensure that it does not pass.

Thank you for considering the following points.

Paul Joslin

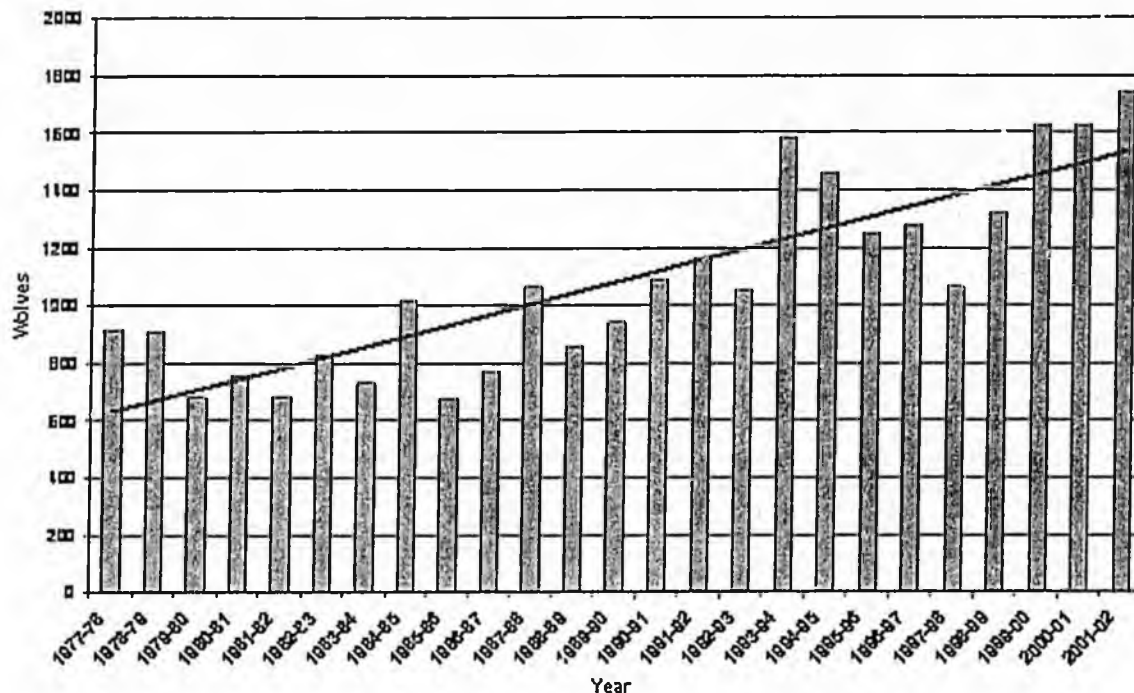
### Why We Do Not Need Aerial Wolf Control

Alaskan voters banned same-day airborne hunting of wolves in 1996, and again in 2000 after the state legislature reinstated it. Ever since the use of aircraft was removed as an aid in hunting wolves the message heard at almost every Board of Game meeting has been the same. "Moose numbers are plummeting everywhere. There is a wolf behind every tree. Alaskan voters took away the only tool we had that works--same day airborne hunting of wolves."

The facts are different. In the McGrath area where the outcry over declining moose populations has been the loudest, and calls for wolf control the strongest, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) discovered by means of aerial surveys that there was no decline in numbers during the intervening years. Indeed moose numbers appear to be up over that of the department's count in 1996. Birth rates are also up, as are calf birth weights and the number of moose cows giving birth to twins.

Taking away of same day airborne hunting of wolves has also not resulted in fewer wolves being killed. ADF&G wolf harvest figures show that *the killing of wolves has more than doubled over the past 25 years.*

## Annual Wolf Harvest in Alaska Over the Past 25 years



Source: ADF&G Annual Harvest Summary Records

Numerous reasons account for the rise in wolf harvest. Alaska's population has increased over 50 percent in the past 25 years, meaning that wolves are more at risk by our own presence. Newer and better tools for hunting wolves have exploded on to the scene. Semi-automatic guns such as M-16s and AK 47s have become popular weapons of choice. Snowmobile numbers have jumped at least 500 percent. They are also faster and more maneuverable such that no wolf in open country has any hope of escaping from pursuing hunters. Once considered illegal and unsportsmanlike, pursuing wolves on snowmobiles is now permitted over vast areas of Alaska. Wolf trapping seasons and bag limits have been expanded. Private wolf bounties, such as the \$100 one in McGrath, are permitted. More opportunities exist for people to learn how to kill wolves, such as through ADF&G sponsored wolf trapping clinics.

It is a myth that Alaska is bursting at the seams with wolves. *Minnesota has 2.5 times as many wolves per square mile as does Alaska.* Why? After nearly eliminating the wolf in the lower 48 more than half a century ago, the wolf was granted near full protection under the Endangered Species Act in the lower 48. Federal and state agencies that had formerly treated wolves as vermin began to spend vast sums piecing together their sociobiology, deciphering the role they played in the natural environment, and investigating the impact they had on domestic livestock. (Minnesota is a major producer of livestock). What was learned was communicated to an originally skeptical public through town meetings, publications, and educational programs.

### What have they learned

Wolves are like most other predators—they are designed to run a little slower than their prey, or when dealing with truly large adversaries like moose, are designed to be a little weaker than their prey. This means that for the most part wolves have little choice but to focus their attention on the removal of the sick and the weak. Both predator and prey benefit as a result. It has been like that for hundreds of thousands of years.

A second role that wolves share with other large land predators is that of mollifying the peaks and troughs in ungulate numbers so that they are more in balance with the ability of the habitat to sustain them. During periods of over abundance, or in years when snow depths are so great that ungulates are starving and easy to catch, wolves have a tendency to take more than they need. This accelerates the bringing of prey numbers into line as well as reduces competition for browse among the remaining ungulates. Of that which is killed nothing is wasted. Eagles, ravens, coyotes, foxes, and a host of other species feast on the leftovers.

During lean years, as for example during winters when snow fall is light, prey has more to eat and is better able to get away, wolves vigorously consume just about everything from that which they kill. Left behind are the stomach contents and a few large bones.

The "pack" is a hierarchical based family unit that responds well to these changes. While individuals may die or leave, the pack itself, and the alpha pair or pack leaders in particular, serve as a conduit for passing along knowledge about the environment and what to hunt where and when. Though only one member of the pack usually bears offspring, all members participate in rearing of the young.

Left to their own devices, wolf populations tend to remain relatively stable, adjusting moderately up or down in response to prey numbers, snow depth and other factors. The burden of who lives or dies is focused largely on the young. As with all species, they are the least knowledgeable, most expendable and most easily replaced. While not always perfect at any one moment in time, looked at over the long term wolves are an extraordinary good fit with their environment.

### **More focus on wolf education**

Wolf education among the public has played a major role in helping Minnesotans to accept the presence of wolves at much greater densities than we have in Alaska. Biologists have been able to demonstrate that the presence of wolves has not negatively impacted prey abundance. Hunters in Minnesota are able to harvest hundreds of thousands of ungulates annually just as hunters do in Alaska. Biologists have also been able to demonstrate that wolves are not the perceived menace to domestic livestock that farmers once feared—an issue we Alaskans scarcely have to deal with. And finally their biologists have been able to show that people and wolves can coexist. Minnesota has a human density that is 50 times that of Alaska.

### **Alaskans don't want aircraft used as a wolf hunting tool**

A poll carried out by Dittman Research Corporation in March of this year determined that Alaskan voters do not want aircraft used as a tool for killing wolves. Their views have not changed since they cast their votes on this issue in 1996 and again in 2000. Every major region in the state is opposed to it, including in the rural areas. The majority of hunters are opposed to it.

### **Conclusion**

Do not support SB 155. Alaskan voters are very clear as to their opposition against the use of aircraft in hunting wolves. Adding yet another wolf killing tool makes no sense in light of the current harvest rate of wolves being more than double what it used to be. Contrary to popular myth, Alaska's wolves are not at super high densities engaged in devastating our game populations. Through the Minnesota example science has been able to show us that people and wolves can co-exist at much higher densities without diminishing prey numbers or hunter opportunity.

My hope is that good judgment and sound science will hold sway over prejudice against wolves when it comes to judging the merits of SB 155. We need your support to make that happen.

Thank you again for your consideration in this matter.

Paul Joslin, Ph.D.

ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

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Governor Frank H. Murkowski  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001,  
Juneau, Alaska 99911-0001

April 8, 2003

Re: Management of Alaska's Renewable Wildlife Resources

Dear Governor Murkowski,

I have an interesting question. How did you get from advocating what is best for our fish and wildlife resources to being afraid to stand up for them in the last six weeks?

I believe I heard you state in your State of State message that you were going to manage on a sustained yield basis as required by the Alaska constitution. How-ever as I see events unfolding today, you are headed the opposite direction.

You and your administration have killed the predator control project in McGrath. You have confused predator control with fair chase hunting. It appears that you are negotiating a deal with the Anti-hunting organizations to prevent any type of predator control that deals with wolves in any area of State. You are proposing to place the same failed wildlife managers back in charge of the Division of Wildlife.

Maybe you do not understand what has taken place in the last decade. The moose population has made a major decline as the decision was made on the by the Governor's Office to feed them to predators rather than Alaskan's. We have lost over 20,000 moose in Unit 13 and 10,000 in Unit 20. I will estimate over 100,000, were lost State wide. By out of date ADF&G figures, each of these moose have a collective value to Alaska of approximately \$7500 each. My calculator totals this to \$750,000,000's. This is only if we had maintained the status quo. If we had managed for abundance, the loss may be 10 times this amount. You must add caribou, sheep, etc. to this to get the true picture.

We could have a big game commercial services industry (this is a portion of tourist industry) of more than \$100,000,000 per year if they had a supply of wildlife for their clients. To day it barely exists, except for guiding for bear. Dahl Sheep harvest is only 50% of what is was 10 years ago.

You keep stating you are willing to make the hard decisions and attempt to make the State live within it's means. These words are very hollow when one looks at where you are headed in wildlife management. Those of us who remember history see the Governor Hickel debacle reoccurring.

Today, you have many frustrated individuals who supported you for Governor. They see you retracting on campaign promises and waffling on issues concerning resource management. Even your agreement with the Game Board on selecting a Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Wildlife appears to be of no value.

A frustrated constituent,

Thomas N. Scarborough

**Subject: HB208 and SB155**

**Date:** Wed, 02 Apr 2003 10:15:35 -0900

**From:** Pat & Arleta O'Connor <patarleta@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senators:

I would like you to support HB208 and SB155. I am a member of the Central Kuskokwin Moose Management Planning Committee. I spent 3 days in meetings at Aniak. We find the moose situation is very grim in G.M. units 18 & 19.

Patrick O'Connor

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

P.S. I don't understand why Senator Ogan opposed these bills?

**Subject:** SB 155--Some other thoughts I wanted to share

**Date:** Wed, 2 Apr 2003 08:49:17 -0900

**From:** "Nina Faust" <fausbail@xyz.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Hollis\_French@legis.state.ak.us>

P.O. Box 2994<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Homer, AK 99603

April 2, 2003

Senate Judiciary Committee

Alaska State Senate

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Committee Members:

Under current law the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has the authority to implement predator control if there is a biological emergency based on extremely low prey population. SB 155 makes significant changes to what voters approved in the Land and Shoot Referendum in 2000 by removing the restriction that only ADF&G personnel perform the airborne predator control and by basing the need on the predator population. As a voter who supported the Referendum in 2000, I oppose these unjustified changes and urge you not to support SB 155.

I think it is time to recognize the subsistence needs of villages and it is past due to let Alaskan voters decide the subsistence issue. It is time for a rural preference. The state's population is growing; there are more hunters wanting to take more animals. We must recognize wildlife is a finite resource, and we will likely have to limit hunters from urban areas and sometimes close areas to hunting to allow populations to recover. In reality, humans also are top predator and hunting/trapping have to be more stringently regulated. Another option to improve moose numbers is to improve moose habitat, perhaps using controlled burns.

The "war" on predators disturbs me. This all out effort to eliminate predators in certain parts of the state will have significant economic ramifications. The majority of the public finds the type of

predator control programs the state is imposing very distasteful and unnecessary and may result in a tourism boycott that will adversely affect many communities.

It is time for a paradigm shift in our approach to wildlife resources in this state. The predators that one Board of Game member referred to as "vermin" are extremely valuable economic resources. The Legislature should examine the larger economic picture, one that capitalizes on the desire of tourists to see wolves, bears, fox, lynx, and wolverine. Why kill valuable resources? People are willing to pay large sums of money to see these wildlife.

In 2001, expenditures by state residents and non-residents on wildlife viewing was nearly 1/2 billion dollars while less than 1/4 billion dollars was spent on hunting/trapping. Think of marketing a "grand slam tour" where local hunters become the guides to take people on a tour of Alaska's wild predators. These animals can be viewed repeatedly, enrich the lives of visitors and bringing in money to local economies. Furthermore, the money spent on destroying these animals instead could be used to help communities establish wildlife-viewing tours. Wolves and bears are popular with a majority of the public. Alaska could become the world's premiere destination to view these big predators, and Alaska could become the world's leader in educating people about the life cycles of these animals in healthy ecosystems.

Let's move beyond the archaic view of predators as "vermin" and learn to use these incredible natural resources to build sustainable, local economies that will benefit rural communities for years to come. Please vote against SB 155.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

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## MEMO

To: Sen. Ralph Seekins  
Chair-Judiciary Committee

From Tom Scarborough

Date: April 2, 2003

Subject: SB 155, An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne

I am pleased to see that you are willing to clarify the State statutes on procedures to permit the taking of predators from the air.

The second problem that must be addressed is the prey population objectives that fail to consider harvest objectives.

We have come to this point in time, because the Div. of Wildlife did not advise the 2003 Game Board that the population objectives in Unit 19D East are meeting the population goals but not the harvest goals. The Board of Game lowered the Population Goals in their meeting in 2000 to match the current moose population so no predator control actions would be necessary.

The same ADF&G players were present in 2000 and in 2003 and I am sure they were well aware of the situation. The new Board could have been advised of the situation and revised the population goals back to pre 2000 goals which was 3 moose per sq. mile instead of the current 1 moose per sq. mile. I believe the current Game Board can have a special meeting and revise the population goal and get the 19D predator control program back on track. At the present time we are running in a circle getting no where. This is exactly where the anti predator control group wants us.

The intent of SB 155 is to correct the situation we find ourselves in concerning Unit 19D. Unit 13 and other areas will experience the same problem.

It is my understanding that State settled out of court in 1983 with the agreement that the only Game Board has the authority to establish the need for a predator control program.

The Commissioner does not need to be involved twice in the decision to do predator control. Once when advising the Board on the need for predator control and then again after the Board makes a determination. In effect the Commissioner gets to veto the Board decision. The Courts have determined the Commissioner does not have that authority.

I suggest the following changes to SB 155.

Line 5 after wolf add (coyote,)

Line 9 Change to read (The Department of fish and game has testified to the Board of Game that the objectives set by the Board have not been achieved and that: )

Line 13 Change to read (with the population directive)

Line 14 Delete the word (program)

Page 2 SB 155

Line 7-11 Delete all wording

**Subject: Senate Bill 155 update**

**Date: Mon, 31 Mar 2003 16:37:16 -0900**

**From: Leo & Dorothy Keeler <info@akwildlife.com>**

**To: info@akwildlife.com**

Dear Senator,

I recently sent an email with "Senate Bill 155" in the subject line. I apologize that a few key points were not as accurate as my wording suggested.

I mentioned that John Blackstone "Stands ready to help spread the word if ... predator control begins." John's job is not to help anybody but to tell factual stories about newsworthy events. That's exactly what he did with both the McNeil River Bears and the Toklat wolves. It is quite possible that if predator control begins it is a story he will choose to cover but his decision will be based on his news judgment and nothing else.

I apologize if my personal belief that CBS News will consider it a newsworthy event led me to a conclusion that CBS News may, or may not, share.

Also, I mentioned that I was "freelancing for CBS News". My ignorance of what it takes to be a "freelancer" was brought to my attention, and I would like to clarify this as well, as I think that is overstating what I am doing. It would be much more accurate to say that I am videotaping to make tape available to broadcasters, both local and network, possibly including CBS News.

I am dedicated to the truth and accuracy, and hope my obvious passion about this situation is what is remembered, not an innocent error that I immediately tried to correct as soon as it was discovered.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Keeler

**Subject:** SB155 / HB108

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 09:10:57 -0900

**From:** "Harry S Cellos" <H.Cellos@conocophillips.com>


**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Attached are my personal feeling on this bill.

Harry

(See attached file: fly\_shoot.doc)

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 fly_shoot.doc	<b>Name:</b> fly_shoot.doc <b>Type:</b> WINWORD File (application/msword) <b>Encoding:</b> base64 <b>Download Status:</b> Not downloaded with message
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Sirs:

I strongly support same day fly & shoot for predator management for the following reasons:

1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.

2) This legislation will allow science - not politics - to manage our wildlife populations. Scientifically based predator management plans have sat on the shelf for years because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue.

4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

I feel this could even be made into a profit making opportunity by allowing private individuals to participate and pay for these as guided hunts.

Best Regards,

A Voter.

Harry Devasconcellos

**Subject:** xxx

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 03:52:29 +0000

**From:** "james batcheller" <jamesbatchellerak@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Subject: HB 208 and SB 155

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to support the above bills. I understand you are going to have hearings Monday, March 31. I am currently out of the state but strongly support these bills, and ask you please to do likewise.

I feel this legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations.

Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.

This legislation will allow science - not politics - to manage our wildlife populations. Scientifically based predator management plans have sat on the shelf for years because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue.

Predator management can only occur on a very small portion - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements by animal rights groups.

I worry, as it appears that the change in administration doesn't seem to change what's happening: groups to discuss what has been discussed and holdover appointees. Please Act to insure our game is managed scientifically.

Thank you,

James Batcheller, D.O.  
P.O. Box 71479  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-1479

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**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 01:49:56 -0900

**From:** Leo & Dorothy Keeler <info@akwildlife.com>

**To:** info@akwildlife.com

Dear Senator,

My name is Dorothy Keeler. It looks like you will be voting on one of the most controversial and potentially most damaging bills the Legislature has considered in decades, Senate Bill 155. Whether you are a Republican or Democrat, it is vital that you consider the economic consequences if this bill passes.

It's hard to believe that this bill is not being considered in the 1800's, when the only good wolf was a dead wolf. Fortunately, the world population has become better educated since then, and opponents of this bill stand ready to launch a worldwide tourism boycott if aerial wolf control is approved, just like it did in 1992.

My husband, Leo, was on the McGrath Adaptive Management Team, and has all the studies the Department paid for that DID NOT support predator control. We both felt it odd that none of those studies were posted on the ADF&G web site. Rest assured... the media can find them posted on ours. (<http://www.akwildlife.com/McGrath.html>)

John Blackstone from CBS News "Eye on America" covered our work to protect the McNeil River bears twice in 1995. He covered our work to protect the Toklat wolves in 1999, and stories of that effort are still posted on the CBS News web site. (<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/1999/11/02/eveningnews/main68682.shtml>) He stands ready to help us spread the word if this bill passes and aerial predator control begins.

I am currently freelancing for CBS News. That's why I have filmed, on TV quality broadcast video, every Board of Game meeting and testimony concerning this issue. That is why I filmed all testimony and discussion of it's sister bill, HB 208, at the Legislative Information Office the afternoon of March 28th, and I will return to continue filming when testimony resumes Monday, March 31st. That is why we created a web site devoted to this issue (<http://www.savetoklatwolf.com>) and we have showcased it on four of our other web sites, two of which currently rival the daily traffic of the KTUU, Channel 2 web site. Since reason and logic have apparently been abandoned, we are fighting this with the only weapon left to us... world opinion.

Do you really want to be responsible for a tourism boycott if this bill passes and aerial predator control is approved? A tourism boycott would cripple our fragile economy, making the one in 1992 tame by comparison. Actually, due to the speed and reach of the Internet, and the studies by ADF&G that prove that over hunting is the cause of the decline (just look at the bull/cow ratio in McGrath) I feel the outcome would be swifter and far more damaging.

Choosing to start predator control to increase moose numbers is like using DDT to increase crop yield... both are guaranteed to work for the short term, but the long-term consequences, both planned and unexpected, will not be worth the cost. The world-wide traveling public will see to that.

However, it's not too late to avoid this fiasco. I urge you to vote accordingly.

Most sincerely,

Dorothy Keeler

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

<http://www.awimages.com/>

<http://www.alaskawildcard.com/>

<http://www.savetokatwolf.com/>

<http://www.wildernessinspirations.com/>

<http://www.awimages.com/e-cards/SaveAlaskaWolves.html>

**Subject: Predator Control Program**

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 14:00:44 -0900

**From:** "Phillips, D. Keith" <phillipsk@unocal.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following statistics (as documented by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) illustrate the success of conservation efforts in the United States: Before 1910, whitetail deer numbered less than ½ million – today there are over 27 million; elk numbered less than 40,000 – today there are over 750,000; antelope numbered less than 5,000 – today there are over 1,000,000; and wood ducks were almost extinct while they are now the most common duck in the Eastern U.S. This is a direct result of wildlife conservation laws and management programs demanded and funded by hunters in other states while the decreasing numbers of game animals in Alaska is a direct result of the lack of scientific management and political posturing during the past eight years by the Knowles Administration. He was supported by the emotional outcries from small but vocal groups of animal rights organizations in this state that are funded by the large, well organized groups outside of Alaska, in addition to a pro-animal rights media.

If this state does not take drastic measures with managing their predator populations, the game animals in Alaska will soon be to the point that they cannot sustain themselves, and everyone, hunters, wildlife viewers, wildlife worshipers, etc. will be the losers.

I fully support the proposed program for managing wolves and bears around McGrath as well as fly and shoot predator management. I consider this proposed program to be the right step towards the scientific game management needed throughout Alaska. The majority of hunters are not proactive or vocal when it comes to letting their voice be heard and the media never speaks for them. That doesn't mean that they aren't in support of programs like the one you're in the process of initiating, it just means that their collective voices are not typically heard through the media, but instead, are heard through groups like Safari Club International, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Alaska Outdoor Council or other outdoor organizations like them.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on what I believe is one of the most important issues for wildlife, non-consumptive and consumptive users in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Keith Phillips

**D. Keith Phillips**  
Unocal Alaska Resources

Predator Control Program

Inspection Supervisor

(907) 776-6710 Office

(907) 776-6783 Fax

(907) 252-1519 Cell

*MAKE IT IDIOT PROOF AND SOMEONE*

*WILL MAKE A BETTE<sup>R</sup> IDIOT*

March 31, 2003

The Honorable Scot Ogan  
Alaska State Senate  
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 103  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ogan,

I am writing to encourage you to support SB 155 and/or HB 208. As an avid outdoorswoman, I find it incredulous that anybody in today's Alaska would continue to support the non-management prerogatives of the previous administration. It is painfully clear to me that the armchair environmental crowd needs to either learn how to read and comprehend statistics, or they need to actually go out, find and then document all those healthy ungulate populations they continue to purport exist out there.

Our prey populations are in serious trouble in many areas of the state. We need something done, and we need it done yesterday! The above mentioned legislation is imperative if we are going to be able to begin the long arduous process of rebuilding our moose populations. This legislation will promote the use of science to manage our wildlife populations, and will hopefully preclude the emotional, irrational notion that that wildlife management should not include any measure that integrates humans into the equation as a natural component of the ecosystem.

The argument against wildlife management regimes that promote healthy populations of all species don't hold up under close scrutiny. For instance, the argument against land and shoot or aerial shooting as an unfair method of hunting completely misses the point. This isn't hunting or trapping, it is management, and therefore should not be held to the same strictures we would apply to the normal regulated pursuit of game.

Last of all and this is perhaps the most important point, hunters are not asking for the wholesale slaughter of wolves or other predators. They do however; expect some due consideration on some of the lands here in Alaska. In point of fact they are basically asking for about 3 to 5% of our own state lands to be subjected to this kind of management. It really boils down to a matter of fairness. Is it fair to manage all of Alaska as demanded by the animal rights and environmental communities? More importantly, is it fair for all Alaskans to be subjugated to the values of the environmental/animal rights crowd through their manipulation of the governing process? I would submit that it is not and that now is the time to start recognizing that many Alaskans hold different values than the "green crowd" and that those values should be accommodated also.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Grasser

**Subject: HB208 and SB155**

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 12:16:52 -0900

**From:** mhamrick <bwanamike@ak.net>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Chapter of Safari Club International, I am representing well over a hundred people in requesting your support for HB208 and it's identical companion SB155.

1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.

2) This legislation will allow science - not politics - to manage our wildlife populations. Scientifically based predator management plans have sat on the shelf for years because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue.

4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

Michael Hamrick  
President  
Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Chapter of SCI

**Subject: SB155**

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 10:36:58 -0900

**From:** "cliff" <cjudkins@customcpu.com>

**To:** "Scott Ogan" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Senator Scott Ogan, We have been promising the people of McGrath and other areas of the state that we would take action to improve moose populations since 1995. So far all that has been done by the state is to monitor the decline of Moose populations and conduct more planning studies. I had thought, that, with a new, more progressive-pro-active Governor and a new more pro-active Board of Game, we would finally start to actually do something positive. In order to move forward with wolf control in Unit 19D we desperately need this legislation giving the state the authority to effectively reduce wolf numbers in the area. The Board of Game has done what we can, under the present population formulas; now we need the legislature to do its' part and pass this legislation so that we can actually take some pro-active (kill some wolves) measures to stop the decline of moose numbers in Game Management Unit 19D. As a member of the Board of Game, a past member and Chairman of the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee, a life member of the AOC, as a 41 year resident of the State of Alaska, and as one of your most faithful constituents and supporters I urge you to support SB155. Sincerely,Cliff Judkins

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 08:43:22 -0900

**From:** "Nina Faust" <fausbail@xyz.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralp\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Hollis\_French@legis.state.ak.us>

P.O. Box 2994<?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />  
Homer, AK 99603

March 31, 2003

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Committee Members:

I am appalled at the Alaska Board of Game's actions concerning predator control that recommends wolf and bear control for the McGrath and other areas. Most distressing are recommendations to use aerial means to eradicate predators. It is very obvious that some members of the BOG do not even have a scientific understanding of the value these animals have in a natural system, referring to them as "vermin".

Alaska voters opposed "land and shoot" hunting in a statewide ballot initiative in 1996 and a referendum in 2000. The BOG recommendations to allow members of the public to employ land and shoot wolf hunting within the Nelchina Basin northeast of Anchorage and certain other areas goes directly against the will of the citizens of Alaska.

Wildlife management is a complex issue, and there are many philosophical approaches to the management of ecosystems. A scientific approach should be the proper approach. Conceding to the Alaska Outdoor Council dominated Board of Game whose point of view favors predator control will lead to contentious, detrimental recommendations that ignore moderate hunters and those who appreciate other values of wildlife. Please listen to the citizens of Alaska who have consistently opposed aerial wolf hunting and turn down HB 208 and SB 155.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

**Subject: PREDATOR CONTROL LEGISLATION, SB155 &HB208**

**Date: Sat, 29 Mar 2003 12:52:18 -0900**

**From: The Hamm Family <billhamm@gci.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

I wish to lend my support to the proposed Senate Bill 155 and House Bill 208. I have been hunting in Alaska for over 30 years to feed my family. I have hunted primarily in the upper Susitna Valley and across the range in the McGrath area. In recent years the numbers of moose have been dwindling markedly. Wolf tracks can be seen almost everywhere, along with the skeletal remains of their work. During all these years of hunting in Alaska, I have never seen a wolf close enough to shoot it. Relying on conventional hunting methods will not adequately control the wolf population because they are just too wary. The only method that has been proven effective is aerial hunting. We need legislation allowing this method to be used, under the oversight of the Fish and Game Department.

William P. Hamm  
4831 Retriever Circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

**Subject: HB 208 SB155**

**Date:** Sat, 29 Mar 2003 01:16:34 -0900

**From:** "Bruce Carter" <brucec@usibelli.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bruce Carter and I am writing to ask that you support these bills. I am the vice chair of the Middle Nenana River advisory committee and am familiar with these issues and how for the last 8 years the ADF&G has had it's hands tied by the former administration and legislature. I think this is the time to go forward with sound biological game management and this is your chance to do it or be a part in it. For too long now our game populations have been declining and outside interests have had too much of an influence on our game management. I ask that you please change the tides and allow our biologists to have the tools that they need to do their job.

Thank you and God Bless,

Bruce Carter  
Box 48  
Healy, Ak 99743

**Subject: Oppose SB 208 Testimony**

**Date: Fri, 28 Mar 2003 16:53:57 -0900**

**From: Leo & Dorothy Keeler <info@akwildlife.com>**

**To: info@akwildlife.com**

Dear Legislator,

My name is Dorothy Keeler. It's hard to believe that this bill is not being considered in the 1800's, when the only good wolf was a dead wolf. Fortunately, the world population has become better educated since then, and we are counting on their revulsion of what this bill allows to end aerial predator control with a tourism boycott, just like it did in 1993.

My husband, Leo, was on the McGrath Adaptive Management Team, and has all the studies the Department paid for that DID NOT support predator control. We both felt it odd that none of those studies were posted on the ADF&G web site. Rest assured... the media can find them posted on ours. (<http://www.akwildlife.com/McGrath.html>)

John Blackstone from CBS News "Eye on America" covered our work to protect the McNeil River bears twice in 1995. He covered our work to protect the Toklat wolves in 1999, and stories of that effort are still posted on the CBS News web site. (<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/1999/11/02/eveningnews/main68682.shtml>) He stands ready to help us spread the word on this.

I am currently freelancing for CBS News. That's why I have filmed, on TV quality broadcast video, every Board of Game meeting and testimony concerning this issue. That is why I filmed all testimony and discussion of SB 208 at the Legislative Information Office the afternoon of March 28th, and I will return to continue filming when testimony resumes Monday, March 31st. That is why we created a web site devoted to this issue (<http://www.savetoklatwolf.com>) and we have showcased it on four of our other web sites, two of which currently rival the daily traffic of the KTUU, Channel 2 web site. Since reason and logic have apparently been abandoned, we are fighting this with the only weapon left to us... world opinion.

Are you really prepared for the tourism boycott that your actions are leading to? This bill, if enacted, will launch a tourism boycott that will make the one in 1993 tame by comparison, crippling our fragile economy. Actually, due to the speed and reach of the Internet, and the studies by ADF&G did that prove that over hunting is the cause of the decline (just look at the bull/cow ratio in McGrath) I feel the outcome will be swifter and far more damaging.

Choosing to start predator control to increase moose numbers is like using DDT to increase crop yield... both are guaranteed to work for the short term, but the long-term consequences, both planned and unexpected, will not be worth the cost. The world-wide traveling public will see to that.

However, it's not too late to avoid this fiasco. I urge you to vote accordingly.

Most sincerely,

Dorothy Keeler

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

**Subject:** same-day-airborne

**Date:** Fri, 28 Mar 2003 10:28:56 -0600

**From:** "Mike Fleagle" <fleagle@mcgrathalaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Senator\_Georgianna\_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Thomas\_Wagoner@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Fred\_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Ben\_Stevens@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Kim\_Elton@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Seekins and Representative Fate:

My name is Mike Fleagle, of McGrath, Alaska, and a proponent of predator management for the benefit of game populations. As you two might be aware, I have been involved in this issue for some time, both from a local level, and as a member of the Alaska Board of Game. I currently serve as chair of the BOG. I write this email from my personal perspective, however.

I applaud your efforts to change AS 16.05.783 to further allow private pilots to participate in predator reduction programs. I certainly support that. However, I am wondering if that will be enough, given the reluctance of past and present administrations to ever actually implement these programs. In light of the proposed "tourism boycott" if any program were to start, and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance's Dittman poll of the public wherein a strong majority of Alaskans oppose State-sponsored predator control, perhaps it is time to once again lift restrictions on the general public for general harvest using aircraft. We certainly have a "harvestable surplus" of wolves, and they should be allowed to be harvested.

I would like to propose that the Legislature remove "wolf" from AS 16.05.783 ((a) A person may not shoot or assist in shooting a free-ranging [wolf], wolverine, fox, or lynx the same day that a person has been airborne. However, the Board of Game may authorize a predator control program involving shooting from the air if...), thereby allowing wolves to once again be hunted by land-and-shoot methods across the state.

If that is too far-reaching (which I don't think it is, by the way), then an amendment to the statute that would once again allow land-and-shoot in "intensive management areas" as defined by the Board of Game.

I believe that once we have this technique returned as a tool for the public to participate in the harvest of wolves, the State would not have to consider predator control programs in the future. This certainly could be a win-win for all involved, except those that oppose killing of wolves by any method. We could also ward off predator-pit situations and potential future wolf control programs that would not be implemented.

There is the danger of yet another citizen's initiative banning it, but hopefully the bill that your bodies are considering now to change the signature-gathering requirements would help in warding that off.

We cannot simply stand by and watch these moose populations across the state just dwindle away any longer. It is high time to start protecting our right to kill and eat moose, and to support the economic benefit that non-resident hunters bring to the Fish and Game fund and those involved in the guide industry.

I thank you for the opportunity to be heard. Thank you. Mike Fleagle

Predator Control.....Please help!

**Subject: Predator Control.....Please help!**

**Date: Thu, 27 Mar 2003 03:19:35 +0000**

**From: "Dave Hamilton" <dlh0@hotmail.com>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Mr. Ogan,

I have lived in Alaska for over 25 years and have seen an ever-increasing predation of caribou, sheep and moose by the rising bear and wolf populations. Wolves in particular have become a problem in many parts of the state. In the last 3 years around Fairbanks I've regularly seen wolves while driving the Elliot and Steese highways, something that used to be considered very rare. Last moose season I counted a pack of 8 at mile 69 on the Elliot and heard more. I've seen more wolves here in the interior in these past 3 years than my other 22+ years in Alaska combined!

I still hunt moose and caribou, and used to enjoy going sheep hunting. However, long ago I quit going into the mountains after sheep due to the heavy toll predation was taking on the Dall sheep population. The final straw was what I observed during my last sheep hunt near Tok in '92.

After spending 2 days climbing to the tallest peak in my area looking for sheep sign, I found it. Sheep sign was there alright, and mixed in heavily were wolf tracks. Lots and lots of them. In fact I discovered tremendous amounts of wolf sign throughout that hunt, including numerous predation kills. I'd not have thought the wolf would go to such great heights (pun intended) to take prey. The sheep literally had nowhere else to go. I figured they had enough to worry about at that point and quit hunting them.

Like most sportsmen, I am all for wildlife conservation and protection, for ALL of the people. However, at some point we need to take an active roll in managing that resource, again, for ALL people.

Please let our wildlife resource folks manage our wildlife with the tools that work, regardless of the emotional outcry from ignorant, though possibly well meaning, anti-hunting groups. People who live in cities and don't hunt or even get out in nature have little, to no, idea how best to manage game populations. Even when you remove the human consumption factor, our caribou, moose and sheep need some help to recover healthy numbers once again.

Dave Hamilton  
POB 61415  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99706  
(907)458-7190

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**Subject:** SB 155

**Date:** Thu, 27 Mar 2003 20:24:32 -0900

**From:** "Mark Gordon" <gordon@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator

I strongly support HE 208. Effective predator control isn't just a good thing to consider anymore. It has become critical in some areas, like GMUs 13 and 19. I think many tools can be used, specifically bounties on wolves, but same day airborne is likely to be the tool which will be most effective the fastest.

This isn't about "sport hunting", or "fair chase". This is reactive and long overdue wildlife management. It's time for Alaska lawmakers to act, disregarding the emotional ballot box biology funded and driven by Outside dreamers who just don't have a clue.

Thanks.

Mark Gordon

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date:** Wed, 26 Mar 2003 11:24:24 -0900

**From:** "LesLee Solberg" <denaliviewbb@worldnet.att.net>

**To:** <senator\_ralph\_seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <senator\_scott\_ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <senator\_gene\_therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_hugh\_fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_beverly\_masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_carl\_gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_cheryll\_heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_bob\_lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_carl\_morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_kelly\_wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_david\_guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <representative\_beth\_kertula@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Alaskan Legislator,

I am emailing this to support the passage of SB 155 and HB 208 to authorize the airborne taking of predators if authorized by the Board of Game.

Over the past decade the ungulate populations decreased in a great many areas of Alaska such as units 13, 16, 19 and 21, to name a few.

In our area near Talkeetna, we hardly see moose anymore because of the great increase of wolf numbers. Management is a tool to allow the numbers of ungulates to rebound and this management requires the most cost effecient way to reduce predation, that of airborne hunting.

Sincerely,

Norman Solberg  
32 yr resident of Alaska

Norman Solberg  
Denali View  
HC89 Box 8360, 15669 East Coffee Lane  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 phone/fax 907-733-2778  
email: [info@denaliview.com](mailto:info@denaliview.com)  
URL: <http://www.denaliview.com>

**Subject: Predator Management**

**Date:** Wed, 26 Mar 2003 13:07:42 -0900

**From:** Cheryl Whitney <wildalaska@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Ogan:

During the past thirty years I have had the opportunity to hunt, trap, and guide in Game Management Units 9, 19, and 17.

During the past several years wolves and bears have devastated the ungulate population. As a Master Guide, the number of moose hunters I am now able to take is a fraction of those in prior years. A loss of revenue for the State of Alaska, as well as our personal business.

Please return sound management of Alaska Game by supporting S. B. 155, which provides the Board of Game appropriate management tools to be used when necessary.

Thank you for your support.

Clark Whitney  
Master Guide #131  
Soldotna, Alaska

**Subject: SB 155**

**Date: Wed, 26 Mar 2003 23:35:42 -0900 (AKST)**

**From: ggholt@webtv.net (Glen Holt)**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Dear Senator Ogan;

I live in the Meadow Lakes area. I have a cabin up the Yentna River that I homesteaded, an over the counter parcel I lived on from 83 to 1989 this is in Unit 16B. We had plenty of moose back then. Land and shoot was legal for taking wolves at that time.

Land and shoot is an effective method of predator control.

I am a Registered Hunting Guide. My company name is Alaskan Woodsmen Hunting Adventures. PO Box 521288 Big Lake, AK 99652,

Sir, moose populations are down all over the State. This is in the face of mild winters the last few years. While bear hunting on two seperate trips in 16B last fall we counted 10 wolves. I saw no fresh moose tracks in 25 days of hunting along the rivers.

Most of the willow that makes up browse for moose in the winter time has grown up so much it is beyond the moose ability to reach it. This is caused by a lack of moose browsing it down so it will regrow. Wolves are hammering the moose, sheep and the few caribou left in the country all year long. They are much harder to control population wise than brown bears. A sow might produce a cub or two every other year at the moose. A wolf bitch can produce 6 or 8 pups every year. Sterilization is preposterous.

Please support SB 155.

Predator control is part of a viable wildlife management program.

Thank you for considering my ability to make a living here in Alaska.

Respectfully

Glen Holt

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date:** Wed, 26 Mar 2003 19:55:33 -0900

**From:** "Anna Groff" <agroff@aptalaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins\_@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative Beth Kerttula" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

**We have hunted many rivers and land areas for moose in the last 45 years, and have watched a steady decline in moose and caribou population in all areas.**

**Please support Bills SB155 and HB 208 and not only support "Airborne or same day airborne taking of wolves in units 13 and 19D, but other areas of the state as well.**

**When we go hunting anymore, about all we see are wolf tracks and black bear tracks, and it is a shame. Please do something about it now. It's years to late as it is, to take this action, and will take years to build up the moose and caribou population.**

**Anna Groff**

**[agroff@aptalaska.net](mailto:agroff@aptalaska.net)**

**Phone: 907-983-3600**

**Subject: Predator control opposition**

**Date:** Wed, 26 Mar 2003 08:04:52 -0900

**From:** Paul and Cecily Fritz <gulogulo@alaska.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senators,

We are writing you to express our opposition to SB 155. As evidenced by repeated ballot measures and the successful early 1990s tourism boycott, a clear majority of the population in Alaska and Outside oppose predator control. Why? If this majority believes as my husband and I do, they believe that high speed mechanized pursuit and shooting of predators is grossly unfair and therefore unethical.

My husband has hunted all his life and is currently planning this fall's moose hunt. We realize he may not get 'his' moose as there are no guarantees. We do not belong to any animal rights groups nor have we ever engaged in animal rights activities. We are not ignorant of predator/prey population cycles, the ravages of starvation, nor are we ignorant of the savageness with which wild predators dispatch their prey and their impact newborn moose. We also understand that for thousands of years predator/prey populations have fluctuated naturally with little or no human influence.

Contrary to what others may imply, we do have compassion for subsistence users during times of shortage. We also realize that many, perhaps most, individuals living a subsistence lifestyle do so by choice. A subsistence lifestyle does not guarantee the availability of a specific type of food, or any food for that matter. It is a challenging, perhaps even risky lifestyle adopted by choice.

We are not willing to bankrupt our values by letting a noisy minority gain government sanction and/or support to pursue unethical practices. There are some acts, or proposed acts, that assault our sense of ethics, fairness and/or morality to such a degree that they cannot be justified through economics, practicality, science or compromise. Predator control in the form of land-and-shoot, shooting from aircraft, or snowmachine pursuit is such an act. Proponents of predator control may not agree with this, saying that 'fair chase' does not apply, that predator control is a 'tool'. They, however, are in the extreme minority and they are wrong. If there is a constitutional clause that game be managed for maximum sustainable harvest and, further, requires unethical practices, than the constitution needs changing.

Alaska has a proud hunting and trapping heritage. We expect Alaskans and outsiders will continue to fish, hunt and trap Alaska's wildlife, including wolves and bears. We expect that these activities are done with respect for our laws, for the game personnel who work hard to develop those laws and for our wildlife resources. We expect our leaders to shun unethical proposals that celebrate wiping out 'vermin'. We ask our leaders to appeal to our higher values of respect, decency and compassion - for that is what makes us great.

Grossly unfair, unethical predator control proposals such as those previously identified will continue to meet with stiff opposition. Persons such as ourselves, who would really rather go back to lurking, will have to get more involved. We will begin by notifying favored hotels, B&Bs, tour groups and restaurants that they will no longer benefit from our repeated recommendations because we will be encouraging our friends and families to just stay home.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Predator control opposition

Respectfully,

Cecily and Paul Fritz  
P.O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska  
746-1299

**Subject: sb155 and hb 208**

**Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2003 22:28:57 -0800 (PST)**

**From: John Thies <chefjdt@yahoo.com>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

Please support these bills. Thank you, John Thies Anchorage, AK

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**Subject: wolf control**

**Date:** Tue, 25 Mar 2003 21:26:21 -0900

**From:** "Greg Pepperd" <pepperd@alaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Honorable Legislators:

I strongly support H.B. 208 and S.B. 155 as introduced into the legislature and I applaud your courage for taking a tough stand on the issue of predator/ prey management. Previous administrations have lacked that courage and forced us to idly watch as our game herds have been decimated by uncontrolled wolf populations. As a 30+ year hunter and pilot, I can assure you that our game herds are in need of immediate help. Ironically, the misguided actions of so-called animal-rightists are affecting not only moose and caribou populations, but they threaten healthy wolf populations as their prey base dwindles to an all time low.

This is not about "fair chase," even though our opposition would like to say that it is. A properly executed program of predator control will have definite goals and levels of reduction crafted by knowledgeable ADF&G biologists. I believe that those same biologists could have changed the outcome of the 2000 initiative had they not been silenced by our former governor and his commissioner of F&G. While that election was plagued with lies, emotional hype and does not necessarily reflect the vote of an adequately informed public, it has no bearing in the actions considered here as we talking about a bonafied predator control program. I fully support the concept of using public participation to implement predator control as a means of controlling state costs. Recruiting only individuals with past experience would be both effective and eliminate the perception of a mass free-for-all. Airborne or land-and-shoot hunting methods are without a doubt the most effective way to take wolves. If Trappers and snowmachiners were adequate, the wolf problem wouldn't exist. Another suggestion discussed by our Advisory Committee would be to remove wolves from their big game status and classify them only as predator and furbearer.

Unfortunately, as we discuss GMU areas 13, 16, & 19, there are many other areas in the state where game populations are suffering from heavy predation as well. Passage of these bills will insure that the ADF&G and BOG will have the tools necessary to cope with these areas as needed. Our game managers should have the right and support to manage wildlife proactively instead of reactively. Little good does it do to close the barn doors after the cows have already escaped!

Please pass these two bills as quickly as possible. Thank you for your support and effort.

Respectively yours,

Greg Pepperd  
Member, Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date:** Tue, 25 Mar 2003 21:05:41 -0000

**From:** "Wayne Kubat" <args@mtaonline.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

**Matanuska/Susitna Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee**

Wayne Kubat, Chair

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

ph. & fax: 376-9568

email: args@mtaonline.net <mailto:args@mtaonline.net>

March 24th, 2003

Dear Legislators,

It seems lately, that the bulk of management efforts by ADF&G and the BOG, has been spent on restrictions to see who gets the last sheep or moose, after populations have severely declined due to a lack of predator and prey management. Resident, non-resident and subsistence user groups have been divided and fight amongst each other. Hunters have lost opportunity, anti hunting groups have gained momentum - often under the false guise of watchable wildlife, and the wildlife resource has suffered greatly. Our committee is very encouraged with the knowledge, and experience of the current BOG members, and with Governor Murkowski's commitment to managing our wildlife resources for abundance using sound science.

We would like to see aggressive action to help rebuild struggling ungulate populations as quickly as possible. People in the valley have a long history of filling their freezers with wild meat, and we want that tradition to continue. Our committee feels that ethical and fair chase hunting and harvesting techniques should always be used first to manage predators and prey. However, if these measures and reasonable hunting seasons and bag limits cant keep predators and prey ratios in check, the use of "cost effective" and "species specific" strategies that can be stopped quickly when goals are met need to be implemented.

In the case of wolves, we think that "same day airborne -- land-and-shoot" or "aerial shooting" "control" programs in which the public participates to reduce state costs are the most practical options.

We support SB 155 and HB 208 that would allow the Board of Game to authorize a predator management program involving *airborne or same day airborne taking of predators* if approved by ADF&G. Especially in GMU 13, 19D, and 16B. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Wayne Kubat - Chair

**Subject: Predator Control Bills**

**Date:** Tue, 25 Mar 2003 15:17:33 -0900

**From:** "Mike Kramer" <mikek@alaskalaw.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

I support passage of SB 155 and HB 208 to restore prey populations.

**Subject: SB 155,HB 208**

**Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2003 19:53:43 -0500 (EST)**

**From: "Pat McGraw" <p.mcgraw@excite.com>**

I support both these bills and would like to see you support them. I believe this kind of action is past due and Fish and Game needs the extra tools to accomplish their mission. Please help our game populations recover as soon as possible.

Thank You,  
Sincerely,  
Neil P. McGraw  
1431 Westmoreland Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

---

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**Subject:** SB 155 & HB 208

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 10:09:37 -0900

**From:** "Graham, John" <GRAHAMJ@alaska.coffman.com>

**To:** "Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, "Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** "easjump@mtaonline.net" <easjump@mtaonline.net>, "Hollis, Harold" <HOLLIS@alaska.coffman.com>

Representatives and Senators,

I live in Palmer, Ak. and spend a considerable amount of time hunting and fishing in Units 13 and 16. In the last several years the moose population has crashed so bad that to find a legal moose to harvest is very difficult. We all know that wolves are the major reason for lack of moose.

SB 155 and HB 208 are the first step in getting things back in balance. Please let ADF&G folks do what they are trained to do, manage Alaska fish and game. Vote yes on this bill before you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, John D. Graham

**Subject: I support predator control**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 09:50:42 -0900

**From:** "Graham, Mark" <GRAHAM@alaska.coffman.com>

**To:** ""Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us"" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us"" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us"" <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, ""Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us"" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello

Please pass legislation in support of Predator control. I have faith in ADF&G's ability to properly manage our fish and wildlife resource. I ask for your support of SB 155 and HB 208.

Thanks

Mark Graham

Mark A. Graham, L.C.  
Coffman Engineers, Inc.  
800 F Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-276-6664  
907-276-5042 fax  
visit our Web site at [www.Coffman.com](http://www.Coffman.com)

**Subject: SB 155/HB208**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 07:37:19 -0900

**From:** "Betty Redfern" <bredfern@worldnet.att.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Attention: Senator Ogan

We are in complete Support of SB 155 of HB 208.

This Legislation would give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools to balance the predator-pray ratio and is critical to rebuilding Alaska's Wildlife population.

Thank you

Roger Redfern, President  
Interior Alaska Airboaters Association, Inc.  
4640 Dale Rd.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
TEL/FAX (907) 479-6732 - (907) 479-6073

**Subject:** SB 155

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 08:56:26 -0900

**From:** "Hamsley, Larry E." <lhamsley@acsalaska.com>

**To:** "'Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us'" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Ogan,

I am in support of any legislation that will allow Alaska's game to be managed biologically and scientifically. Predator control is the first step. Alaska is not a petting zoo or a huge wildlife viewing state. We live here, pay taxes and support our communities year round. Please increase the momentum being gained in the process of predator control. I am totally in support of SB 155 and HB 208

Sincerely,

Larry Hamsley

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*Distributed by Rep. Carl Norcia*

MTNT, Limited  
P.O. Box 309  
McGrath, Alaska 99627

March 24, 2003

SUBJECT: SB 155

To The Alaska State Legislature:

MTNT is a for profit village corporation consolidated in 1976 from the villages of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai and Telida and has 356 shareholders. All four of these communities rely heavily on harvested game. Nothing is more important to our area than the availability of a healthy moose population for subsistence harvest.

In order to satisfy the Sustained Yield clause of the Alaska Constitution, action must be taken.

Our area has been involved in this wildlife issue since 1995 when the State Board of Game addressed our concerns about an unhealthy predator to prey ratio and found biological data supporting these local statements. In 1995 the Board of Game passed a Predator Control Program. In 1996 our area petitioned the Board of Game to move up implementation of the Program from 1997 to 1996 and our petition was granted based on sound science. Governor Knowles did not allow that program to commence.

In 2000, the McGrath Area managed to get help from Sen. Pete Kelly and Sen. Halford. Passage of SB74 occurred in 2000. It was vetoed by the Governor and the legislature did an over ride. There were just a few months before public referendum took that law away. Not long enough to make any difference in local efforts.

Our moose numbers continued their downward spiral while studies have come and gone, emotional and biological arguments in the public form have come and gone and continue, and local trappers in our area continue to do what they can to balance the eco system in 19D east independent of state politics. If there have been any gains in the field, the credit must go to the local citizenry.

We are in support of SB 155: "An Act relating to hunting on the same day airborne; and providing for an effective date."

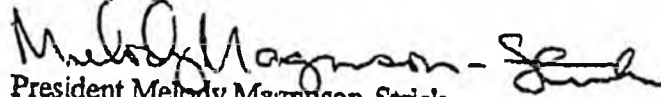
We do support giving the Board of Game authority to institute a predator control program involving airborne or same day airborne shooting. Due to our area's topography and/or geography airborne or same day airborne shooting is necessary to accomplish a successful game management program authorized by the Board of Game.

The Board of Game has made written findings based on prey population objectives. It is well documented in our area that predation is an important factor contributing to a low or

declining prey population and it is believed that a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to result in aiding an increase in the moose population and in arresting the decline of the moose population.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. Your support of the passage of this bill would be appreciated.

Thank you,



President Melody Magnuson-Strick  
MTNT, Limited

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208 - In support of**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 09:14:10 -0900

**From:** "Hollis, Harold" <HOLLIS@alaska.coffman.com>

**To:** "Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, "Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us" <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that legislation in support of predator control has been introduced into the legislature in the form of SB 155 and HB 208.

I urge you to pass this legislation to put wildlife management and the control of predators back into the hands of ADF&G. Our wildlife populations are being devastated by predators, particularly wolves, and sensible management needs to be restored. Please enact the legislation that enables our wildlife managers to do their jobs.

Thank you.

Harold L. Hollis, P.E.  
Coffman Engineers, Inc.  
800 F Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907/276-6664  
907/276-5042 Fax  
hollis@alaska.coffman.com  
www.coffman.com

**Subject: SB 155 AND HB 208**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 09:37:05 -0900

**From:** ben barclay <benbarclay@pci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that legislation in support of predator control has been introduced into the legislature in the form of SB 155 and HB 208.

I urge you to pass this legislation to put wildlife management and the control of predators back into the hands of ADF&G. Our wildlife populations are being devastated by predators, particularly wolves, and sensible management needs to be restored. Please enact the legislation that enables our wildlife managers to do their jobs.

Thank you.

Ben Barclay, P.E.

**Subject: Predator Control: SB 155 and HB 208 - In support of**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 19:10:57 -0900

**From:** "Elizabeth Shine" <lshine15@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

**From:** T.J. Shine  
P.O. Box 874895  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
907/376-5975  
easjump@mtaonline.net

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Twenty five years of personal experience have shown me the awful consequences of deferred predator control in GMU's 13+16. Wolves especially have decimated game populations and proliferate unchecked.

Please pass this legislation which allows our Wildlife Professionals to act on their management decisions. The current predator/prey imbalance is a tragic problem for many Alaskans. It cries out to you for a solution.

Thank you

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From the desk of  
Budd Goodyear, BA, MLA, MSM

March 24, 2003

Sen. Scott Ogan  
State Capitol, Rm 103  
Juneau, AK 998011182  
Fax: 907-465-3265

Sen. Ogan, I support predator control for Unit 13. The moose and caribou populations in that unit have been almost totally destroyed by the wolves and brown bears. I understand that the Alaska Game Board needs legislation passed supporting its decisions on matters of predator control because of interference from preservationists. I support that legislation.

SB 155 and HB 208 should do the job. Please give these measures your full consideration. In addition to the bills as written I would like to see a bounty placed on wolves in Unit 13. Further, in Unit 13 and other units with bear problems, a hunter should not be prosecuted for shooting a sow brown bear with cubs if the cubs are recovered alive and adopted out. This change could be temporary until the bears are under control.

Now a note about the preservationists. In 1973 the National Wildlife's publication, "Conservation News," reported that a study had revealed that 80 percent of the people living in New York City were neurotic because they chose to live in a large city away from contact with the natural world. Thirty years later--today--it seems likely to me that these neurotic people have become psychotic. When it comes to managing wildlife, we--this country--this state--should NOT listen to people who give themselves an emotional handicap on the issue by living in large cities.

Sen. Ogan, there are several cultural wars ongoing in this country besides the ones in this state. You can see the battle lines by looking at the red and blue map of the geographic areas carried by President Bush in the last election. The battle lines are around large cities, places where the inhabitants have lost touch with the real world. The stench of sophistication and elitism coming from large cities is sickening.

Best Regards,

Budd Goodyear

**Subject: SB155 & HB 208**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 20:25:55 -0900

**From:** "Jeannette James" <usual@ptialaska.net>

**To:** "Ralph Seekins" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, "Hugh Fate" <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, "Beverly Masek" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, "Carl Gatto" <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, "Cheryll Heinze" <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, "Bob Lynn" <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, "Carl Morgan" <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Kelly Wolf" <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, "David Guttenberg" <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Beth Kerttula" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.us.ak>, "Scott Ogan" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Gene Therriault" <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>

Thanks to the sponsors of SB155 and HB 208 which would authorize a predator management program involving airborne or same day airborne taking of predators if approved by ADF&G.

It is about time we have the authority to meaningfully manage predators for the management of predator/prey populations.

The most critical of all areas are Unit 13 and 19D, however it is important that we manage our resources in a meaningful way statewide. All the testimony I heard over the years from folks who are knowledgeable on this issue of airborne taking of predators, and my own eighth grade science tell me that this is the most effective way to implement control of wolves as predators.

I understand that there are some who don't believe in predator control at all and would prefer some other methods that my study indicates are not really effective. But most biologists I have talked to, say from the air is the only way to do it successfully.

A very small percentage of the moose population is taken by hunters, both subsistence and other. Moose is an important food source for many Alaskans, and particularly those who live off the road system.

I urge you to quickly vote to pass these bills out of committee and to the floor. I trust that you will be able to get sufficient votes in both houses so that one of these bills might make a beeline to the third floor for the Governors signature Sooner is better than later.

Thank you for your efforts.

Jeannette James

**Subject: HB 208 and SB 155 \*\*\*SUPPORT\*\*\***

**Date: Sun, 23 Mar 2003 21:07:19 -0900**

**From: "Spotmom" <spotmom@mtaonline.net>**

**To: <spotmom@mtaonline.net>**

We are in full support of both same day airborne and from the air predator control. We need predator control in many game management units to get the balance back and increase the moose populations for those of us who would like to return to our normal areas for taking moose to fill the freezer. Our last caribou hunt into unit 13 we spent 6 days in the field and saw only 2 moose and a handful of caribou. We used to wake up to dozens of moose around the tent.

People who complain about this not being "fair chase" are misguided and uninformed. OF COURSE this is not "fair chase"! The object is to reduce the number of wolves, not play with them. The fastest and easiest way is the best way and would ultimately save the state money by getting the program done and over with as quickly as possible.

Human beings are part of the scheme of nature, also. We are as much a predator as the wolf and bear. Some people have gotten too far from these roots. To those of us who are still living off game meat, keeping game populations healthy (so there is enough for us *and* the wolves and bears) is very important. There is no reason to have the boom and bust cycles in game populations. Keeping predators in check, in the most efficient manner, will keep things good for all of us.

Sincerely,

Rodney J. Herrin and

Cathy L. Herrin

P.O. Box 2451

Palmer, AK, 99645

**Subject: Predator Control**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 08:20:53 -0900

**From:** "Doug Frederick / Sportsmens Paradise" <dfrederick@starband.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

I've lived in Alaska for over 50 years and one thing that I have learned is we have to have predator control. When my folks came to Alaska in the 40's there were very few moose and caribou and sheep. The government implemented a predator control, airborn hunting, bounty on wolves and coyotes and others. Within a few years we had an abundance of moose, sheep and caribou. We have some very knowledgeable biologist and advisory committies. Shieffield took away the voice of the advisory committies and the biologist in favor of the ANTI's. We need to get back control of our management of wildlife and the recommendations of our biologist and advisory committies. It has been proven time and again that the only effective means of wolf control is by local pilots.  
Thank You  
Doug Frederick

**Subject: Predator control**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 18:05:23 -0900

**From:** David Oathout <doathout@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Sseekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us

**CC:** Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator

I have hunted in unit 13 for 29 years. I have seen a steady decline in Moose and Caribou populations while predators have steadily increased in numbers. One year I climbed up a mountain side and with binoculars counted almost 200 cow moose, and saw only three yearling calves. I have no doubt that hunters didn't kill the calves, predators did. That was 1990. Last year from the same mountain side I was able to count 6 cows and no calves. We did encounter several bears and 3 calf kill sites two of them twins. We saw some wolves about 4 miles away across the river and heard them at night close to our camp.

Anyone with a lick of sense will understand this problem started when land and shoot regulations were put in to effect. Wolves are incredibly hard to hunt on foot. I defy anyone to tell me they are effective in hunting wolves this way.

This is not a "fair chase" issue. This is a game management issue.

Please support Land and shoot regulations. Then we need to get the job done before the fools can vote our hunting rights away again.

Thanks

David M. Oathout

3521 Glenn Don Circle

Anchorage, Alaska

99504

**Subject:**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 14:41:43 -0900

**From:** Barney & Debbie <bardeb@gci.net>

**To:** Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Seekins and Representative Bud Fate introduced identical legislation (SB 155 and HB 208) that allows the Board of Game to authorize a predator management program involving *airborne or same day airborne taking of predators* if approved by ADF&G.

- 1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.
- 2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.
- 3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

I fully support SB 155 and HB 208 and would also like to see that the Department of Fish & Game be allowed to make game management decisions. The State should keep politics out of game management and let F & G do their job as they see fit.

Thank you for your support on this issue.

Barney & Debbie Booyen

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 00:24:51 -0900

**From:** Gene Yockey <geneyock@gci.net>

**To:** Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

I strongly support this legislation. You need to encourage same day airborne and even go further to encourage hunting guides to offer same day airborne hunts for wolves. Don't let the anti crowd bully us into thinking they are the majority or that they represent the interest of true Alaskans.

Thank you.

Gene Yockey

**Subject: Predator Control**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 20:23:00 -0900

**From:** "Kitty Grosse" <sawinglogs@yahoo.com>

**To:** <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

**CC:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

I am strongly in favor of predator control for the following reasons. Please vote in favor of any and all control.

- 1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.
- 2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.
- 3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

Thank you,  
Glen Casagrande and Kathleen Grosse

wolf control yes!

**Subject:** wolf control yes!

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 07:45:22 -0900

**From:** "Brent Keith" <brent@usibelli.com>

**To:** <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>

Hello from Healy Mr. Ogan:

I just wanted to contact you and add my full support of SB155 and HB208, these bill's are key to a successful predator control plan. I don't believe that the state needs to totally fund a program like this, I believe the public should do their part. As a registered guide conducting hunts in both units 13 and mostly 20 I've been doing the best I can at trapping, but as you well know a fella can only cover so much country by snowmachine. I average about 12 wolves per season out of the area I trap. If these bill's go through the added advantage of using aircraft will increase the chances of harvesting certain packs that are typically unreachable by snowmachine and detrimental to the moose and caribou herds of the area.

I thank you for your time and keep up the good work.  
Happy Hunting,

Brent Keith  
CASTLE ROCK OUTFITTERS  
P.O. Box 88  
Healy, AK. 99743  
907-683-1250  
[www.castlerockoutfitters.com](http://www.castlerockoutfitters.com)

**Subject: Predator control**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 08:41:28 -0900

**From:** "Chris Osowski" <chrisosowski@msn.com>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us

This legislation to provide predator control is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.

Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.

Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

Finally, I see this as an opportunity to re-establish our right to govern ourselves rather than allow special interest groups from outside tell us how they think we need to manage our resources when all the while we have our own expert scientists and biologists who have spent years studying the affected game and fish populations here first hand that recommend we take these steps.

Thanks,

Chris

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*Richard H. Bishop*  
1555 Gus's Grind  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[rbishop@pttalaska.net](mailto:rbishop@pttalaska.net) - 455-6151

March 22, 2003

Sen. Scott Ogan  
Alaska State Legislature  
FAX 465-3265

Dear Senator Ogan:

Please pass SB 155 or HB 208 so that we don't have to go back to the "good old days". In the "good old days" moose were scarce in the Interior.

Prospectors on the Salcha River in 1889 met an Athabaskan who had followed the same moose cross country for 3 days before killing it with a bow and arrows.

Lt. Zagoskin in 1842 documented that people living on the Kuskokwim River could only find moose in the foothills of the Alaska Range. Nick Mellick, who mined, trapped, and ran a trading post in the early 1900's told me that moose showed up around Sleetmute about 1913—there had been virtually none available before then.

Sydney Huntington often reminds us of how scarce moose were in the Koyukuk River country until the 30's and 40's, and how his brother Jimmy and Don Stickman shot many wolves from the air in the mid-50's to help moose numbers recover, which they did quite well. Today the Koyukuk River is overlaid by a federal refuge, and aerial shooting is illegal everywhere.

Ironically, federal management policy is "no management", even though federal law is supposed to provide for subsistence use.

Today, 60% of Alaska's lands are under the federal "no management" policy. Another 20% to 30% is unavailable for predator-prey or habitat management due to closed areas, urbanization, and "rocks and ice" habitat.

Please pass SB155 or HB208 to ensure that predator-prey management, if needed, can be done successfully in the few areas where it remains an option.

I recommend that you further amend AS16.05.783 (b)(2) by adding after "employee" the phrase "or agent" in the 2 places "employee" appears. ADF&G should not have to incur the added cost of hiring people to assist with a management program. Not even the misguided federal Airborne Hunting Act requires that.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

  
Richard H. Bishop

cc: Alaska Outdoor Council

**Subject:**

**Date:** Fri, 21 Mar 2003 17:44:00 -0900

**From:** "Stewart Smith" <stewsell@acsalaska.net>

**To:** <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttola@legis.state.ak.us>



**Stewart Smith**

Associate Broker, Commercial Division

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Office: (907) 276-2761 Fax: (907) 277-7005

[WWW.STUSELL.COM](http://WWW.STUSELL.COM)



Please support SB 155 and HB 208

- 1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wild life populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.
- 2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.
- 3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

**Stewart Smith**  
Associate Broker, Commercial Division  
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website: [www.stusell.com](http://www.stusell.com)



EMAIL STATIONERLY CREATED BY:

realtours

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date: Fri, 21 Mar 2003 19:56:33 -0900**

**From: Ray Wilson <jrwilson@alaska.net>**

**To: Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us**

1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.

2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.

4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

5) Lets manage our wild life using sound scientific data.

6) Refuse to bow to animal rights activists that would rather we manage our wild life with misguided, ignorant, misinformation based on emotions.

Ray E Wilson  
MSG (ret) U.S. Army Special Forces  
Fairbanks, Alaska

wolf kill program

**Subject:** wolf kill program

**Date:** Thu, 13 Mar 2003 06:11:35 -0900

**From:** THOMAS PRUNTY <TPRUNTY@alaska.com>

**To:** senator\_scott\_ogan@legis.state.ak.us

Chugjak constituent

Senator Ogan:

This brief email is to show my great displeasure with the current predator program. I hope that this does not happen. I have spent a lot of time in the Bush and I know that this kind of control is very foolish.

Thank You, Tom Prunty



# DICK GUNLOGSON

*Master Guide and Outfitter*

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WILLOW, ALASKA 99688  
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dickgun@mtaonline.net



## ADDENDUM AND UPDATE TO THE ATTACHED WOLF MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

MY PROPOSAL IS AIMED TOWARD A LONG TERM SOLUTION BY ESTABLISHING STATE WIDE WOLF HARVEST OBJECTIVES THAT ARE:

1. ONGOING AND ADJUSTABLE TO CHANGING CONDITIONS.
2. ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PUBLIC IN A MANNER IN WHICH REVENUE FLOW IS POSITIVE RATHER THAN NEGATIVE TO THE STATE.
3. COMMON AND CONSISTENT WITH THE HARVEST OF ALL OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCES.
4. EMPLOY METHODS AND MEANS ALREADY BEING USED IN HARVESTING OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCES. (DEER AND CARIBOU ARE CURRENTLY BEING HARVESTED SAME DAY AIRBORNE.)
5. NOT CONTROVERSIAL IN THAT IT PROPOSES NOTHING THAT IS NOT ALREADY A PART OF OUR CURRENT GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
6. ACCEPTABLE ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS USING METHODS AND MEANS ALREADY USED ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS.

### THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT:

1. A QUICK FIX THAT FOCUSES ON A SMALL SELECT AREA TO "STUDY".
2. DESIGNED TO MAKE WORK FOR STATE EMPLOYEES IN THE FORM OF SHOOTING WOLVES FROM HELICOPTERS AND ABANDONING THE HIDES, STERILIZING WOLVES, STUDYING WOLVES AD INFINITUM. QUICK FIXES: HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED SINCE THE 1950'S F&W PROGRAM, WHICH, AS WE ALL KNOW CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNGULATE POPULATIONS TO EXPAND TO AREAS NEVER POPULATED BEFORE, AND TO GREATLY INCREASE NUMBERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. BUT QUICK FIXES ARE JUST THAT - THEY DO NOT PRESENT ANY LONG TERM SOLUTION AND ARE CONSTANTLY AND POLITICALLY VULNERABLE TO MANY FORCES. QUICK FIXES EXTRACT A HUGE TOLL OF TIME AND MONEY, WHETHER IT IS YET ANOTHER STUDY, ANOTHER MEETING, ANOTHER INITIATIVE OR WAITING FOR A NEW GOVERNOR.
3. DESIGNED TO PAD THE POCKETS OF ORGANIZATIONS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO TAKING OF ANY WOLVES, ANY TIME, ANY WHERE, AND WHO DEPEND ON THE PREDATOR CONTROL CONTROVERSY TO MEET THEIR BUDGET OBJECTIVES.

### MY HOPE IS:

1. IN THIS NEW DAY OF ENLIGHTENMENT (AS WE SIT IN YET ANOTHER MEETING ON THIS VERY SAME ISSUE (SEE THE DATE, 1989, OF MY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL) JUST MAYBE SOMEONE MIGHT SAY, "BY GOLLY IT MIGHT BE WORTH A TRY!!" WE SEEM TO HAVE TRIED ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE AND IT JUST AIN'T WORKING.

RESPECTFULLY,

DICK GUNLOGSON

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



## DICK GUNLOGSON

*Master Guide and Outfitter*

BOX 183

WILLOW, ALASKA 99688

TELEPHONE (907) 495-6434

FAX 495-8825



### ALASKA BOARD OF GAME, NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

MY TESTIMONY WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD ATTEMPTING TO PUT THE WOLF HARVEST INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE IN RELATION TO ITS IMPORTANCE AND PLACE IN ALASKA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

SIMPLY PUT, OUR WOLF POPULATION IS BUT ANOTHER OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES, AND SHOULD BE VIEWED NO DIFFERENTLY FROM THE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY OR ALL THE OTHER READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCES WE HARVEST EVERY YEAR. AN ANNUAL HARVEST OF ONE THOUSAND WOLVES REPRESENTS AN INCOME OF FROM THREE TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS! VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS IS NEW MONEY IN THE ALASKAN ECONOMY AND IT STAYS HERE, TO THE BENEFIT OF THE APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC MULTIPLIERS. BEST OF ALL WE HAVE JUST AS MANY WOLVES AGAIN THE NEXT YEAR AND THE HARVEST CAN CONTINUE. IN THESE DAYS OF DECLINING REVENUES THESE DOLLARS REPRESENT A VERY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PUT INTO THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE - ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS MONEY THAT GOES TO SUPPORT THE AVERAGE ALASKAN WHO MAKES HIS HOME AND HIS LIVING HERE IN ALASKA.

I SUBMIT TO THE BOARD THAT THE WOLF POPULATION CAN AND SHOULD BE PROPERLY MANAGED ON THE BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD, AS IT RELATES TO THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONCEPT. HARVEST QUOTAS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH GMU, AND, MOST IMPORTANT, ADEQUATE METHODS AND MEANS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD ENSURE THOSE QUOTAS ARE MET. I FEEL THAT THIS BOARD IS DOING A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE IN ALASKA BY PAYING AN UNDUE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ATTENTION TO A SMALL VOCAL GROUP OF PEOPLE, MOSTLY NEW TO THE STATE, IF EVEN RESIDENTS, WHOSE VIEWS ARE BLINDLY EMOTIONAL IN NATURE AND IN TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE VALUE OF THIS RESOURCE TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND MAKE A LIVING HERE IN ALASKA.

THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONCEPT IS MUCH MORE TO THE ISSUE THAN IS THE PREDATOR ISSUE CONCERNING THE WOLF POPULATION. IF WOLVES ARE MANAGED AS A READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCE, WHICH WE KNOW THEM TO BE, AND, THEY ARE HARVESTED ON A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS, WE WOULD HAVE NEITHER A PROBLEM WITH EXCESSIVE WOLF POPULATIONS, NOR WITH EXCESSIVE PREDATION ON UNGULATE SPECIES. THE ANNUAL WOLF HARVEST WOULD KEEP THE WOLF POPULATION WITHIN LIMITS WHICH IN TURN WOULD HELP TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE POPULATION OF UNGULATES.

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



## DICK GUNLOGSON

*Master Guide and Outfitter*

BOX 193

WILLOW, ALASKA 99888

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PAGE TWO

IF THE BOARD TRULY SEEKS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN WOLVES AND UNGULATE SPECIES TO THE BENEFIT OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ALASKANS THEY CAN DO SO BY PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE MAXIMUM SUSTAIN YIELD CONCEPT. CERTAINLY, WE KNOW THAT OUR STATE BIOLOGISTS CAN MANAGE WOLVES ON THE SAME BASIS AS THEY DO OUR OTHER READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCES OF FISH AND GAME.

I WOULD BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SUPPORT A VIABLE WOLF POPULATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STATE. AS A PROFESSIONAL HUNTER WE TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE IN BEING ABLE TO SEE AND HEAR WOLVES, ON OCCASSION, AND FOR OUR CLIENTS TO DO THE SAME. I CERTAINLY DO NOT FAVOR WIPING OUT THE WOLF POPULATION. HOWEVER, BY THE SAME TOKEN A GOOD SHARE OF OUR INCOME CAN BE DERIVED FROM HARVESTING SURPLUS WOLVES. NOT ONLY DOES THIS BRING INCOME TO US TO HELP RAISE OUR FAMILIES HERE IN ALASKA, BUT IT ALSO ENABLES US TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE AMONG THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN ANY GIVEN AREA.

AND, IN TOTAL CONTRAST TO THE NEGATIVE CASH FLOW BROUGHT ABOUT BY SPENDING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF TAXPAYERS MONEY TO GO OUT AND TO THIS VERY SAME JOB, WE CAN DO IT AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER - INDEED, THE RESULT IS A STRONG POSITIVE CASH FLOW INTO THE ECONOMY.

I HAVE HUNTED WOLVES IN MOST AREAS OF THE STATE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER OVER THE LAST 25-30 YEARS. A VERY SIMPLE LAW OF ECONOMICS ENTERS INTO THE HARVESTING OF WOLVES, WHETHER BY AERIAL SHOOTING, AERIAL TRAPPING OR GROUND TRAPPING. WHEN THE WOLF POPULATION IN ANY GIVEN AREA IS REDUCED TO WHERE IT IS NO LONGER ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO SPEND THE TIME AND MONEY IT TAKES TO HARVEST THEM, THEN, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ACTIVITIES WILL STOP IN THAT AREA. THE WOLF POPULATION HAS NOT BEEN WIPED OUT. IT HAS JUST BEEN REDUCED TEMPORARILY TO A LEVEL UNECONOMICAL TO HARVEST. HARVEST PRESSURE WILL REMAIN AT A LOW LEVEL IN THAT AREA UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT ONCE AGAIN BECOMES ECONOMICALLY PRACTICAL TO PURSUE WOLVES ON A COST EFFECTIVE BASIS. WHEN THAT HAPPENS HARVESTING OF THE SURPLUS WILL RESUME.

ACTUALLY, THIS PARALLELS THE CONCEPT OF LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE WITH NO WOLF HARVEST UNTIL THERE ARE SO MANY WOLVES THAT THEY EAT ALL THEIR AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY - AT WHICH POINT THEY EAT EACH OTHER AND THE POPULATION CRASHES. IN EFFECT ABOUT THE SAME THING HAS TAKEN PLACE, BUT WITHOUT ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF A CONTROLLED HARVEST OR THE REVENUE DERIVED THEREFROM.

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



## DICK GUNLOGSON

*Master Guide and Outfitter*

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PAGE THREE

IT IS A BIOLOGICAL FACT THAT WOLVES WILL REPLENISH THEIR POPULATION IN ANY GIVEN AREA OVER A MUCH SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME THAN WILL A SEVERELY DEPRESSED UNGULATE SPECIE. A BREEDING PAIR OF WOLVES IN A 400 SQUARE MILE AREA CAN, WITHIN 3 YEARS, BECOME 30 WOLVES. I DO NOT HOLD MUCH WATER WITH THE MYSTIC OF THE BREEDING PAIR. WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT ONLY ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE WILL BREED IN A FAMILY PACK, WE KNOW THAT ADULT WOLVES CAPABLE OF BREEDING WILL SOON SPLIT OFF TO FORM ANOTHER FAMILY GROUP AND THIS CONTINUES UNTIL THE POPULATION OF THE AREA EQUALS OR - IF UNHARVESTED - EXCEEDS THE AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY.

ONLY BY HARVESTING WOLVES ON A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS CAN WE AVOID THE EXCESSIVELY HIGH WOLF POPULATIONS THAT TRIGGER A CRASH IN THE AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY, FOLLOWED BY A CRASH IN THE WOLF POPULATION, ADINFINITUM. WITH A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD HARVEST WE CAN MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WOLVES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PLAY WITH THEM, WE CAN PROPERLY UTILIZE A RESOURCE IMPORTANT TO BOTH RURAL AND URBAN ALASKANS, AND WE CAN PROTECT THE UNGULATE SPECIES TO ASSURE THEY WILL NOT BE DECIMATED TO LEVELS WHERE IT TAKES MANY, MANY YEARS FOR THEM TO RECOVER TO A NORMAL POPULATION LEVEL.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE IRREVERSIBLY OPPOSED TO THE KILLING OF ANY WOLVES - OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. THIS BOARD IS CHARGED WITH A MUCH BROADER AND DEEPER RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL ALASKANS, MOST OF WHOM, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, FIND IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO COME TO ANCHORAGE TO TESTIFY ON THESE ISSUES. THE MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD HARVEST SHOULD PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO ANY REASONABLE AND FAIR-MINDED PERSON. I URGE THE BOARD TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

DICK GUNLOGSON  
BOX 193  
WILLOW, ALASKA

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*