

HJR

31

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HJR 31
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title OPPOSE FED LAW RE AERIAL HUNTING RDU _____
 Component _____
 Sponsor Representatives Keller, Wilson and Johnson
 Requester House Resources Committee Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | FY 2009 | FY 2009 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | | | | | | | | |
| Con.ractual | | | | | | | | |
| Supplies | | | | | | | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | | | | | | | | |
| 1005 GF Program Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Estimate of any current year (FY 2008) cost: _____

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time | | | | | | | | |
| Part-time | | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | | | | | | | | |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Debra Higgins Phone 465-3715
 Division: Committee Aide, House Resources Date/Time 2/20/08 3:00 PM
 Approved by: Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chair Date 2/20/2008
House Resources Committee

25-LS1385\E
Kane
2/19/08

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KELLER, Wilson, Johnson

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to**
2 **prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has experienced and
5 knowledgeable biologists familiar with Alaska wildlife; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Board of Game openly discusses game management at board
7 meetings and makes decisions based on scientific data; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska is a sovereign government within the United States with its own
9 Board of Game responsible for managing the wildlife asset to be utilized, developed, and
10 maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses,
11 under art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** many areas in Alaska are accessible only by boat or aircraft; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska presents unique living and wildlife situations of which many
14 people outside the state might not be aware; and

15 **WHEREAS** there is no shortage of predators in Alaska; and

16 **WHEREAS** predator imbalance will destroy other species that are important to the

1 ecosystem of Alaska; and

2 **WHEREAS** there is legislation before Congress to prevent aerial predator control;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS** the use of aircraft is a necessary tool for managing the asset of game
5 animals to provide for abundance for personal use in Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** much of Alaska's wildlife represents a natural food source for many
7 Alaskans;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges all members of Congress
9 to oppose H.R. 3663, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that management of fish and game in Alaska should be left
11 to the experts in the state.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
13 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
14 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa
15 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
16 the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States
17 Congress.

Alaska State Legislature

Interim:
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: (907) 376-3725
Fax: (907) 376-4768



Session:
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-3743
Fax: (907) 465-2381
Toll Free: (800) 565-3743
Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair, House Resources Committee
District 13 - Palmer

Date: February 19, 2008
To: Legislative Legal Services
Re: HJR 31 CS Request

Based on motions adopted by the House Resources hearing on Feb. 13, 2008,
please generate a CS of HJR 31 incorporating the following amendments:

Page 2, line 6:

Delete "**moose and caribou represent livestock to**"

Insert "**much of Alaska's wildlife represents
a natural food source for**"

Page 2, line 11, after "sent":
Insert "**electronically**"

Page 2, line 3:

Delete "**except for the protection of
livestock**"

Thank you for your assistance.

Best Regards,

Rick VanderKolk
X5025

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

February 19, 2008

SUBJECT: Sending joint resolution copies electronically
(CSHJR 31(RES), Work Order No. 25-LS1385\E)

TO: Representative Carl Gatto
Co-Chair of House Resources Committee
Attn: Rick VanderKolk

FROM: Brian J. Kane *BJK*
Legislative Counsel

I have made the changes to HJR 31 as you requested and developed a draft committee substitute. However there is one point I would like to call to your attention. I have not included the term "electronically" on p. 2, line 12, regarding how the copies shall be sent.

On February 12, 2008, there was a memorandum sent by Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives requesting that the legislature not order electronic transmission of joint resolutions.

Based on this memo from the Lieutenant Governor, I have not added "electronically" to how the copies are to be sent. If you would still like this instruction added, please let me know and I will do so.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

BJK:lmb
08-040.lmb

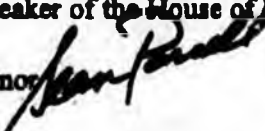
Enclosure



Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Lyda Green, President of the Senate
The Honorable John Harris, Speaker of the House of Representatives

FROM: Sean Parnell, Lieutenant Governor 

CC: Tamara Cook, Director of Legislative Legal Services

DATE: February 12, 2008

RE: Mass Distribution of Joint Resolutions

I have discovered that the electronic transmission of joint resolutions does not efficiently communicate with Congressional officials. To prevent excessive email flooding, and to limit electronic communication to constituents only, U.S. Senators and Congressmen do not have publicly available email addresses. Instead, electronic access is provided through cumbersome web-based submission forms—sometimes available only to constituents. This takes significant time to complete, and in cases where electronic access is limited to constituents, is impossible. In addition, internal email addresses are not available to state officials for this purpose.

Instead, mass distribution to all members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives is more easily accomplished through correspondence with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. These communications are entered into the *Congressional Record* and further distribution is completed by the Secretary and the Clerk. This is the traditional manner by which states communicate these types of resolutions with members of Congress.

For these reasons, I request that you not order the electronic transmission of joint resolutions. Please direct that "Copies of this resolution shall be sent to...and all other members of the 110th United States Congress." If you have questions, please contact Jason Hooley at 465-4082. Thank you for your consideration.

STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

February 8, 2008

The Honorable Don Young
House Natural Resources Committee
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Young:

A bill before Congress would significantly change the way Alaska and other states manage their wildlife. Sensational posters and emotional advertisements are promoting the "Protect America's Wildlife" (PAW) Act. I believe this Act is misguided and dangerous. Let me share Alaska's view, and encourage you to think critically about this legislation.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's mission is to foster sustainable populations of all wildlife, including predators. Ours is the only state with a full complement of native large predators and big game animals. We recognize our good fortune. We take our stewardship responsibilities seriously.

Alaska manages fish and game on a sustained yield basis, i.e., there are always enough to maintain populations into the future. In the fifty years since statehood, Alaska has proven its ability to prudently manage huge and disparate populations of fish and wildlife.

But the "PAW" Act would make wildlife management decisions for Alaska from faraway Washington, DC. Its sponsors give insufficient consideration to the realities of life in the far north. We should no sooner place ideological restrictions on states' management of all wildlife than we would impose Missouri bass-fishing rules on the crab fishermen of the Bering Sea. Alaska is unique in the nation and demands uniquely Alaskan solutions to challenges and problems.

Wild fish and game is important food for Alaskans. In remote and roadless rural Alaska, people live in tiny villages scattered widely across miles of unfenced wilderness. Many have no sewer or water systems. Mail and groceries arrive by small airplane. Cash economies are not well-developed, and living in rural Alaska is expensive. Wild fish and game are an affordable alternative to store-bought food. It is organic, pesticide- and hormone-free, lean, wholesome, and available locally. Americans in the Lower 48 are discovering the benefits of eating locally produced food. Alaskans have been eating locally for centuries.

The Alaska State Legislature's "intensive management law" recognizes this. The law directs the Alaska Board of Game (Board) – the body that sets wildlife regulations – to identify areas where human consumption of wild game is a priority. The Board sets population and harvest goals for moose, caribou, and deer. If those goals are not met, the Board must consider direct action, such as improving habitat and reducing predation. If habitat is adequate but predators are holding prey

populations down, reducing predation can allow those prey populations to increase and/or enable humans to harvest and eat animals which otherwise would have gone to predators.

Control programs are not designed to eliminate predator populations. No population of predators will ever disappear entirely, given modern management and the permanent habitat protection on more than half of Alaska's land.

Predator control is not hunting. Fair chase is not involved; programs employ methods not available to hunters. If wildlife is destroying a farmer's crops, he doesn't pause to consider fair chase, he addresses the depredation as effectively as he can. Aerial shooting of wolves is a specific management action to reduce predation, carried out only by specially permitted teams of Alaska pilots and gunners in precisely defined areas for limited periods. When scientifically determined reduction goals are reached, control actions stop. Wolves are not killed from the air by non-resident "trophy hunters."

The "PAW" Act includes a provision for state managers to implement predator control in a "biological emergency," but that approach is flawed in the same way as several Alaska ballot initiatives. Managers shouldn't have to approach the brink of an "irreversible decline" in prey numbers before taking action. That's simply irresponsible. If a decline is irreversible, no action will help anyway.

Please review the enclosed materials, or examine our on-line information at <http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=control.main>

Don't hesitate to contact me or John Katz in Alaska's DC office at (202) 624-5858 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Denby S. Lloyd
Commissioner

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

September 27, 2007

The Honorable George Miller
United States Congressman
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0507

Dear Congressman Miller:

On behalf of the state of Alaska, I am writing to express my displeasure with your introduction of a bill that proposes to end what you refer to as "airborne hunting" of wolves and bears in Alaska. You have misconstrued the reality of life in Alaska and the importance of wild game as food to the people of this state. You displayed a shocking lack of understanding of wildlife management in the North and the true structure and function of Alaska's predator control programs. You have threatened the very foundations of federalism and the states' abilities to manage their own affairs as they see fit.

I am dismayed that you did not attempt to contact the state your bill affects most directly before announcing your legislation. At the very least, we could have helped you correct the many inaccuracies and misstatements of fact in both the written and the oral portions of your media presentation yesterday

For example, Alaska's wildlife management programs are conducted entirely within the tenets of the Airborne Hunting Act, as the annual reports we file with the U.S. Department of the Interior clearly demonstrate. Predator control is not hunting; it is a carefully prescribed directed management action. Airborne hunting is illegal. Our science-driven and abundance-based predator management program enlists volunteers permitted to use aircraft to kill some predators in specified areas of the state where we are trying to increase opportunities for Alaskans to put healthy food on their families' dinner tables.

I am especially concerned your draft bill threatens the constitutionally guaranteed sovereignty not just of the state of Alaska, but all states. Under our system of federalism, fish and game management is generally conducted by the states, not the

The Honorable George Miller
September 27, 2007
Page 2

federal government. Courts have repeatedly recognized wildlife management as one of the aspects of traditional state sovereignty reserved to the states under the Tenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Federal powers to regulate wildlife are limited and seldom result in broad, area-wide effective management strategies, but Alaska's fish and game management programs have been widely recognized for their excellence and effectiveness. Alaska, alone among the states, has managed its wildlife so that we still maintain abundant populations of all of our indigenous predators almost fifty years after statehood. Your proposal to limit this effective management program to addressing only biological emergencies caused by irreversible declines of important moose or caribou herds is an unworkable and unwarranted interference with time-honored principles of federalism and with effective state programs. If a decline is irreversible, it is by definition unresolvable by deploying management tools. That may be acceptable to you, but I cannot allow wildlife management challenges to deteriorate to unsolvable levels.

Alaska's predator control program is mandated by the Alaska State Legislature, regulated by the independent Alaska Board of Game, and implemented by the world-renowned scientists at our Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our state constitution requires wildlife to be managed on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses. When game population or harvest goals are not met, Alaska's intensive management law mandates action, including habitat improvement and/or predator control.

Our state biologists use radio tracking, visual surveys, and numerous other scientifically proven methods to assess the health of wildlife populations. Often, predators keep prey populations lower than the area habitat could support. In most states, wildlife populations are limited primarily by habitat; in many parts of Alaska, however, moose and caribou are prevented from reaching abundant levels by heavy predation. Wolves and bears are powerful and effective predators; these predators kill far more moose and caribou than do humans hunting for food.

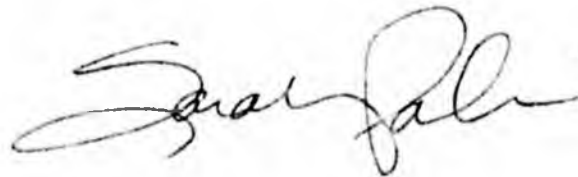
Our science-based program is designed to reduce the effect of predators in given areas with the intent to allow a higher harvest of moose and caribou by humans for food. By thinning the numbers of predators in selected areas, we are enabling more Alaskans to hunt moose and caribou and put food in their freezers. Each program is specifically designed, carefully considered, and closely monitored. We do not undertake predator control lightly.

The Honorable George Miller
September 27, 2007
Page 3

Predator control is not hunting. Fair chase ethics do not apply. The notion that it is "unsportsmanlike" is simply not applicable. To participate, Alaskans must qualify for permits to shoot on the same day they fly, and, in some cases to shoot from aircraft. A successful program reduces predation and/or allows prey numbers to increase, enables people to take more moose and caribou, and allows healthy populations of predators to thrive. We have healthy populations of wolves and bears all around the state, and we intend to keep it that way - always. We would not conduct predator control if there were even the slightest concern predator populations were in jeopardy.

With all due respect, Congressman Miller, you failed to do your homework. I urge you to learn more about the realities of Alaska's predator control program, and not to swallow the rhetoric of special interest advocacy groups trying to raise money for their inaccurate campaigns. In addition, I invite you to come to Alaska and see for yourself how we manage our wildlife, and meet some of the many hard-working Alaskans who rely on our predator management programs to give them access to the food they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Palin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Sarah Palin
Governor

cc: The Honorable Ted Stevens, United States Senator
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator
The Honorable Don Young, United States Congressman



Gov. Responds to the Wildlife Act

07-197 Governor Responds to the Protect America's Wildlife Act

September 26, 2007, Anchorage, Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today criticized Congressman George Miller's (D-CA) legislation to eliminate an important element of wildlife management by the State of Alaska.

"Moose and caribou are important food for Alaskans, and Congressman Miller's bill threatens that food supply," said Governor Palin. "Congressman Miller doesn't understand rural Alaska, doesn't comprehend wildlife management in the North, and doesn't appreciate the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gives states the right to manage their own affairs."

Miller's bill would ban the shooting of wolves from aircraft, a component of moose and caribou management plans in five specific areas of Alaska. Predation can keep populations of large game animals at persistently low levels, limiting or eliminating opportunities for Alaskans to secure wild game for food.

Governor Palin is in agreement with Alaska Congressman Don Young, who announced yesterday his opposition to Miller's bill, emphasizing that it is an affront to the sovereignty of American states guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

"This bill would be an unprecedented federal incursion into traditional State management of fish and resident wildlife," said Palin. "If the federal government can do this to Alaska today, it can do it to any other state tomorrow. The other states, particularly the western public land states, should join us in expressing their indignation."

Contrary to what Representative Miller said in Washington yesterday, there is no "aerial hunting" of wolves in Alaska, the Governor said. "Our science-driven and abundance-based predator management program involves volunteers who are permitted to use aircraft to kill some predators in specified areas of the state where we are trying to increase opportunities for Alaskans to put healthy food on their families' dinner tables. It is not hunting and we have never claimed that it is."

Governor Palin said she will contact several other members of Congress to encourage them not to support Congressman Miller's effort.

"It appears to me that the Congressman has been inadvertently drawn into service as a fundraiser for national animal rights organizations that commonly spread inaccurate information about Alaska's game management programs, and with which we are in court on these issues right now," said Palin.

Wildlife management policy in Alaska is set by the Alaska Board of Game, a public body appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature. The Board deliberates by weighing evidence at public meetings. Testimony comes from Alaska Department of Fish and Game scientists, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens. Governor Palin stressed today that wolf and bear populations are extremely healthy this state, and that predator control is intended to create more

opportunities for humans to harvest moose and caribou for food, while maintaining healthy populations of predators.

“Our goal is to always have healthy populations of all wildlife, including wolves,” Palin said. “Alaska is the only state that still harbors a full complement of both large ungulates and large predators.”

###

Printed on 2/13/08 at 11:20:43 AM by 146.63.202.66

From: Tom
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 10:34 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: *****SPAM***** HB 348

Representative Wes Keller, Myself and my family are behind you in your efforts. We are all outdoorsmen and Women and have started seeing the results of the Predator control program in unit 13. We have seen more Caribou and Moose calfs and although we have not been succesfull in our big game hunts the last two years in unit 13 we are seeing more animals, and know it is just a matter of time untill we see more Leagle animals. Now if we could use our aircraft for caribou hunting in unit 13 we would have a fair chance to harvest an animal just as the atv's and boaters do. I am not shure how it came to pass that how I chose to spend my hard earned money on an aircraft instead of a boat or fleet of atv's, that it would elimanate us from participating in this hunt. My family has hunted this area with aircraft since 1965.

Thank you for your time.

Good luck!
Randy Apling
Sharon Apling
Tyler Apling
Trisha Apling
Floyd Apling
Ardith Apling

Anchorage, AK 99501
90

More new features than ever. Check out the new [AOL Mail!](#)

From: patti barber [mailto:patti.barber@alaska.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:53 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HJR 31 and HB348

I support these bills as written. This will enhance the value of the wild food source.

Kenny Barber

Palmer, AK 99645

From: O'Connor

Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:56 AM

To: Rep. Wes Keller

Dear Representative Keller,
I support HB 348.

Patrick O'Connor

74. 1-1
Palmer, AK 99645

From: Dane Crowley
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:42 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Representative Wes Keller,

Thank you first for your service to the State of Alaska and for bringing the HB 348 and HJR 31 to the attention of our government body. Both of these speak to issues plaguing Alaska and must be addressed.

I whole-heartedly support HB 348 and would like to offer the following comments;

- 1) It puts Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game back into the correct role of managing Alaska's fish and game resources for ABUNDANCE and not managing people through archaic seasons, bag limits and poorly designed experiments like the proposed "any ram" hunt in 14A and 13D.
- 2) It gives Alaskans preferential use of game resources. I would like to again bring up the proposal #158 to take 13D and 14 A and eliminate an open sheep hunt for Alaskans, turn it into a draw and reduce opportunity for Alaskans by 2/3 AND allocate 10% permits for non-residents. If there are not enough sheep to have an open hunt there can be no opportunity for non-residents. I say ADF&G must manage for more sheep not limit opportunity, this bill sets it straight.
- 3) Puts into code (Pullen v Ulmer) that game is an asset much like it defined fish.
- 4) This is backed by independent tourist industry business people, backed by hunter groups, subsistence hunters, guides and native organizations because it manages for abundance and reduces in-fighting amongst Alaskans.
- 5) Allows Alaska to manage game without meddling from outside special interest with single-minded objectives not compatible with the Alaskan way of life or constitution.
- 6) Last but not least this does not change any law, law on initiatives, it simply clears the air and helps everyone see the job at hand and give them a base to work off of to do that job.

HJR 31 put another tool in our wildlife manager's tool box and we must be willing to try. If we can take nothing else from the aerial wolf control of Alaska's pre-statehood days, it's that 30 years of intense wolf eradication efforts failed to kill all of or even place Alaska's wolves into a threatened or endangered category. We simply need to put things back into balance. Like it or not People are part of the ecosystem and we are obligated to manage, let manage for healthy moose, caribou, sheep AND bear and wolves.

Thank you for your efforts and I would be more than willing to speak or lend my voice anytime. Keep up the good fight.

Dane Crowley
Life Member FNAWS and current board member
Life member SFW/SFH and current board member SFH.
Palmer Alaska

From: jason kottsick [mailto:robared45@hond]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:51 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: I support you!!!!

Mr. Keller,

I just received an email from Scott [redacted] of the SFW. As a member of SFW, and new Alaska resident, I support what you are standing for. We NEED to have more scientific data to prove that killing predators will in-turn produce more big game and possibly more predators in the future. We must keep aerial predator hunting as a tool to control predators. This is the most humane and effective method that we have. Most importantly though, we need to educate all the people opposed to managing OUR wildlife. They need to understand that what they hear or see on some stupid commercial or from some radical is not always true. People need to learn to rely on sound data that has been produced by our biologists, not rely on what some novel gives them.

I understand that what we are fighting for is very difficult when the folks we are dealing with have a lot of support and money to fight against us. Most of those that oppose this aren't even from Alaska and don't understand subsistence and wildlife management. I respect what you are doing.

Thank you,
Jason Kottsick

Climb to the top of the charts! Play the word scramble challenge with star power. [Play now!](#)

From: Steve Colligan
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:29 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HB 348 Board of Game Regulations and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re; Aerial Hunting

Dear Representative Keller:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express my support for HB348 and HJR 31. I fully believe that Alaskans should manage their own resources and follow the process and procedures that are on the books already, that support abundance management. HB348 clarifies the existing relationship between the Department, Board of Game and the Legislature. This will save untold amount of department resources from frivolous challenges from outside interest. I believe that the people nearest the resources have the clearest insight and historical knowledge of game resources in their own back yard. There is an existing process that allows open access between all parties involved, unfortunately outsiders have manipulated this process at the expense of the same people they are claiming to help.

Thank you for this bill to clarify what to many already exists.

HJR 31:

I am in full support of a statement of opposition to Miller of California who is touring his hand brushed show wolf. He is purposely misleading the general public with his Hollywood pet .vs the what really exist in the wild. I am offended that we as Alaskans are his fundraising poster child.

Thank you for bringing these forward for sportsman and subsistence alike.

-Steve Colligan, Wasilla, AK

From: Rep. Wes Keller
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:37 AM
To: Jim Pound
Subject: FW: HB 348-HJR 31

From: Dickey, Martin L [mailto:Martin.Dickey@alaska.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 8:33 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HB 348-HJR 31

Good morning Wes Martin Dickey here I am a life long Alaskan of 51+ yrs and have enjoyed many years as an active fisherman and hunter the Bill HB 348 is a good start as to getting this state my home back on track and managing our own resources **all resources**. Which brings us to the next topic **Bill HJR 31**. This bill is also very important in the management of our resources as wolves/predators are very necessary in nature aerial wolf hunting or fly and shoot same day for predator control based on **all the available data** is a very valuable tool at our disposal and should not be given away this State my State where I choose to live year round and have raised four children who ail live and work here also 4 grandchildren who love the outdoors camping, hunting and fishing so lets choose to manage our resources to the best of our ability so there is always enough for all to enjoy.

Sincerely:
Martin Dickey
Beverly
Wasilla AK. 99654

2/13/2008

From: Corey Rossi
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 10:13 PM
To: Rep. Ves Keller
Subject: HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Representative Keller

I am firmly in favor of HB 348 Board of Game Regulations and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law Re; Aerial Hunting.

Please keep these important bills moving forward for the good of our beloved game resources.

Thank you!

Corey Rossi

From: Andrew Zajac .
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 9:50 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HB 348 & HJR 31

Dear Representative Keller,

It has just come to my attention that there will be hearings on HB 348 Board of Game and HJR 31 Oppose Federal Law tomorrow. Please be assured that you have my support. I urge you to protect our fish and game from the encroachment of outside interests who wish to dictate how we Alaskans regulate our wildlife. I have hunted in Alaska since 1970 and have seen the decline in our game populations. Bears and wolves are nice to have around, but as predators, they need to be drastically reduced. The needs of humans come first!!

Thank you for you efforts.

Sincerely,
Andy Zajac

From: Linda Frey
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 7:29 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: HB 348 and HJR 31

Dear Rep. Keller,

I am writing to encourage you in your efforts to pass HB 348 and HJR 31. We are 24 year Alaskans who now have 2 younger generations of hunters in the family. We would like to be able to take our 1 year old twins grandsons hunting and fishing as they get older. We are proud to be Alaskans and recognize that Alaskans do know what is best for our state, not outside anti-hunter groups who wouldn't know what to do with a fresh side of moose if it was handed to them.

Thanks for your work on these bills.

Linda and Dana Frey



Congressman George Miller
(D-California, 7th District)
Committee on Education and Labor,
Committee on Resources

New Bill Would Stop Illegal Airborne Hunting of Alaskan Wolves and other Wildlife
Tuesday, September 26, 2007



- **WASHINGTON** – Legislation introduced today would protect wolves, bears, and other wildlife from the illegal and inhumane practice of airborne hunting. The new bill would close a loophole in federal law that **Alaska** officials have exploited to permit individual hunters to shoot and kill nearly 700 wolves from aircraft in the past four years.

- “It’s time to ground Alaska’s illegal and inhumane air assault on wolves,” said Congressman George Miller (D-CA), a leader in Congress on conservation and natural resource issues and author of the new bill. “The state of Alaska has been operating an airborne hunting program that not only ignores federal law but violates Alaskans’ and other Americans’ wishes.

- The bill does not alter existing exceptions for the use of aircraft for animal control where land, livestock, water, pets, crops, or human health and safety are at risk.



Miller was joined by Alka, a 5-year-old Arctic grey wolf, and two wildlife experts and advocates -- Joel Bennett, and Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife



Photo Courtesy of David King
King's Outdoor World



Photo Courtesy of David King
King's Outdoor World



Photo Courtesy of David King
King's Outdoor World



Photo Courtesy of David King
King's Outdoor World

HJR 31 AND HB 348
LETS CONGRESS KNOW WE
HAVE EXPERTS MANAGING
OUR ASSET OF GAME

&

WE DON'T NEED
INTERFERENCE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14 Sponsor Statement

HJR 31

A Resolution opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.

For years now the state has been committed to manage our game despite the unique Alaska challenges. For more than a decade one of problems facing moose and caribou has been an increasing number of predators relative to the number of game animals. HJR 31 supports decisions by the Alaska Board of Game that aerial hunting is a critical tool to manage moose and caribou populations for abundance. This resolution is also premised on the belief that the harvesting of moose and caribou is a "preference among beneficial uses" of Alaska's wildlife. (Article 8, Paragraph 4 of the Alaska Constitution)

As early as the 1990's the State Board of Game has used aircraft, many times the ONLY means of access, to thin a growing population of predators so both subsistence and local hunters could continue to access sustained yield of this resource. This form of management has increased the moose and caribou population in many parts of the state. It has also cut down on the danger of random wolf attacks on dogs or small humans.

Despite this valuable management tool, there are those from other states who seem to believe they know better, or don't have a clue. They are wrong. Despite that, they continue to try and once again they have found a friend in Congress. The Honorable George Miller of California has introduced legislation that is specifically aimed at Alaska. It would make it a federal crime with a \$50,000 fine for Alaska to manage its game asset.

House Joint Resolution 31 says, "NO"; That Alaska knows what it is doing when it comes to wildlife management; That we have professional trained staff and biologists that make the correct necessary decisions to protect our valuable resources for all Alaskan's... What California considers sport hunting many Alaskans consider food on the table that doesn't have to be shipped from California.

Your support of HJR 31 lets Congress know by making it clear once again that Alaska is a sovereign state, with the ability to "utilize" and "maintain" our wildlife on the sustained yield principle without interference from people, many who have never seen or supplemented their pantry with a moose or caribou. It supports our Congressional delegation by saying game management of Alaska from Washington D.C. is not acceptable.

Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 (Introduced in House)

HR 3663 III

110th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 3663

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to establish additional prohibitions on shooting wildlife from aircraft, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 25, 2007

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. DICKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to establish additional prohibitions on shooting wildlife from aircraft, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PROHIBITIONS.

Section (a) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(a)) is amended--

- (1) by striking "or" after the semicolon at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2);
- (2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:
 - (3) shoots or attempts to shoot any bird, fish, or other animal before 3:00 a.m. following a day on which the person has traveled by aircraft other than on a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft;
 - (4) knowingly participates in using an aircraft for any purpose referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or
 - (5) knowingly violates any regulation issued under this Act; and
- (3) in the matter following paragraph (5) (as added by this section) by striking "\$5,000" and inserting "\$50,000".

SEC. 3. EXCEPTIONS TO PROHIBITIONS.

Section 13(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) Except as provided in paragraph (5), a State may not authorize or undertake any action otherwise prohibited under this Act, for the purpose of increasing any game population or for the purpose of sport hunting.

“(4) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State may shoot any wolf, bear, or other predator from an aircraft to prevent a biological emergency, if--

“(A) the head of the State's fish and wildlife agency determines, based on the best scientific data available, that a biological emergency is imminent and there is no other means available to eliminate the biological emergency;

“(B) the shooting is conducted by an officer or employee of the State fish and wildlife agency or of the United States Department of Agriculture;

“(C) the shooting occurs only in the specific geographical area where the biological emergency exists; and

“(D) the shooting removes only the minimum number of predators necessary to eliminate the biological emergency.

“(5) The Secretary of the Interior may authorize an action that is referred to in paragraph (1) to prevent the extinction of any species that is listed as an endangered species or threatened species under section 4(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)), if the Secretary determines that there is no other means available to address the threat of extinction.”

SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF BIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY.

Section 13(c) of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) As used in this section:

“(1) The term ‘aircraft’ means any contrivance used for flight in the air.

“(2) The term ‘biological emergency’ means an irreversible decline in a wildlife population caused by a predator population.”

SEC. 5. CITIZEN SUITS.

Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742j-1) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Any person may commence a civil action on the person's own behalf--

“(1) against any person, including the United States and any other governmental instrumentality or agency, to the extent permitted by the eleventh amendment to the Constitution, who is alleged to be in violation of this Act; or

“(2) against the Secretary if there is alleged a failure of the Secretary to perform any act or duty under this Act that is not discretionary with the Secretary.”



Press Release

Congressman George Miller (D-California, 7th District)
Committee on Education and Labor, Committee on Resources

New Bill Would Stop Illegal Airborne Hunting of Alaskan Wolves and other Wildlife

Tuesday, September 25, 2007



WASHINGTON – Legislation introduced today would protect wolves, bears, and other wildlife from the illegal and inhumane practice of airborne hunting. The new bill would close a loophole in federal law that Alaska officials have exploited to permit individual hunters to shoot and kill nearly 700 wolves from aircraft in the past four years.

"It's time to ground Alaska's illegal and inhumane air assault on wolves," said Congressman George Miller (D-CA), a leader in Congress on conservation and natural resource issues and author of the new bill. "The state of Alaska has been operating an airborne hunting program that not only ignores federal law but violates Alaskans' and other Americans' wishes. The PAW Act will help to protect our nation's wildlife from the unethical and unfair practice of airborne hunting."

The Protect America's Wildlife Act, or PAW Act, was introduced by Miller along with Rep. John Dingell (D-MI), the dean of the House and floor manager of the debate on the original Airborne Hunting Act, and Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), the chair of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

At a press conference on Capitol Hill, Miller was joined by Atka, a 5-year-old Arctic grey wolf, and two wildlife experts and advocates -- Joel Bennett, an Alaska resident and former member of the state's Board of Game and Rodger Schlickeisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation and environmental advocacy organization.

In response to public outcry over airborne wolf hunting in Alaska, Congress passed the Airborne Hunting Act in 1972 to prohibit shooting or harassing animals from aircraft. However, for the last several years, officials in Alaska have licensed people to shoot hundreds of wolves from aircraft under the guise of wildlife management and predator control but in clear violation of the intent of the federal ban.

In 1996 and again in 2000, Alaskans approved two popular ballot measures that banned airborne hunting in the state, but the state legislature largely overturned each of those measures.

Hunting wildlife from an aircraft violates wildlife management principles and the hunting rules of fair chase, as does the related practice of chasing animals in an aircraft until they are exhausted and then executing them on the ground, known as 'land and shoot.'

The FAW Act makes it clear that states can only conduct activities prohibited by the Airborne Hunting Act to respond to legitimate biological and other emergencies, not just to authorize otherwise-illegal hunting practices. The bill does not alter existing exceptions for the use of aircraft for animal control where land, livestock, water, pets, crops, or human health and safety are at risk.

The bill is numbered H.R. 3663, and has been referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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Wildlife Conservation

Overview of Relationships Between Bears, Wolves, and Moose in Alaska

Relationships between large predators and their prey in Alaska are complex, and no one model fits all situations. It is possible to generalize about some situations, particularly in Interior Alaska. This information on the biology of moose, bears, and wolves, represents highlights from 25 years of research and management programs conducted by universities and state, provincial and federal governments in Alaska and Canada. In 1997, the National Academy of Sciences published a summary and review of predator/prey interactions in Alaska (National Research Council, 1997). More research has been conducted since that review. The published references listed below can be found in most university or large municipal libraries.

In the boreal forest of northern Canada and Interior Alaska, where bears (either black bears, grizzly bears, or both) and wolves are lightly harvested and are major predators on moose, moose densities typically remain well below levels that their habitat can support. Under these circumstances, moose density fluctuates between about 0.1 and 1.0 moose/mi² over large areas; most commonly densities are 0.4 to 0.6 moose/mi². Biologists refer to this situation as the Low Density Dynamic Equilibrium or LDDE because moose density fluctuates yet remains low. This occurs primarily because, together, bears and wolves are efficient predators on moose calves, and kill most of the calves born each year. The highest densities reached in these systems (about 1 moose/mi²) tend to occur in very large burns where habitat is excellent and moose apparently are more successful at avoiding predators.

Although the LDDE prevails in much of remote interior Alaska, differences occur between areas. In most areas, bears are the major predator on moose calves. An exception occurs in Game Management Unit 20A where wolf control has been shown to be effective at maintaining high numbers of moose and high long-term harvests of moose. In Unit 20A, initial reductions in wolves increased moose population density, wolves also quickly increased after wolf control because, ultimately, the number of wolves in an area depends mostly on the number of prey animals in the area. Number of moose harvested also remained high after wolves increased. An abundance of trappers in Unit 20A has kept wolves from increasing to the point where they could cause declines in the moose population. A similar situation likely occurs in portions of Units 20B and 20D South.

Grizzly bears have been shown to be particularly effective predators of moose calves from birth to about 2 months of age and often kill adult moose in the spring. In this regard, one grizzly bear is equivalent to many black bears. Not all bears are equal, however, and some bears seem to become specialists at killing both adult and calf moose.

Black bears have been found to be the most important predator of moose calves in some areas of Alaska where grizzly bears are uncommon. In these areas, black bears killed about 40% of all moose calves that were born. Most predation was by adult males.

Biologists expect that significant reductions in bear numbers (either black or grizzly or both) will also lead to higher numbers of moose for harvest. For example, in areas of Canada and the northern states where moose coexist only with wolves, moose are often found at high densities that fluctuate with weather and habitat (e.g. Isle Royale).

Numbers of grizzly bears have probably increased in Interior Alaska since the 1950s. We base this on incidental observations by older hunters, local residents, cabin owners, and Native elders, who all indicate that grizzly bear numbers have increased. This is corroborated to some degree by modern studies. For example, grizzly bears were recently found to be significant predators of moose calves on the Yukon Flats and are commonly seen by local residents, whereas 20-30 years ago, observations of grizzly bears were rare.

In the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, where wolves and bears are not common, moose are abundant.

Grizzly bear populations appear to be much more resilient to harvest than previously believed. During the last 10 years, the Alaska Board of Game has made a deliberate effort to reduce numbers of grizzly bears in a few important hunting areas (e.g. Game Management Unit 13-the Nelchina Basin) by increasing the bag limit and extending hunting seasons. So far, these new regulations have had no noticeable effect on grizzly bear populations even though hunters have taken an increased number of bears.

Wolves have been found to be very adaptable and they recover from low numbers within a few years. Despite relatively heavy hunting and trapping over the last century in Alaska, wolves occur on nearly all of their traditional habitat throughout mainland Alaska. Historically, wolf numbers were greatly depressed. Specifically, wolves were rare in Interior Alaska between about 1910 and 1925, and during the 1950s. During 1910-1925 wolves may have succumbed to diseases brought in by sled dogs or to widespread poisoning. During the 1950s, federal predator control agents reduced wolves by poisoning and aerial shooting. Wolves have been abundant and have occurred in all of their historic ranges in Alaska since state management began in about 1960 (except for the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, and the western Seward Peninsula).

Wolves are social animals that live in large family groups. Usually, only a single female per pack successfully raises pups, but depending upon the relationship of adult males and females in a wolf pack, multiple litters may occur in a single pack in a single year. Most pups born into a pack stay in the pack for at least one year, but virtually all have dispersed away from their natal pack by the age of 3. Large packs of 20 or more wolves may occur in areas where food is abundant and pup survival is high. Wolf populations in North America commonly sustain annual harvests or natural mortality rates of 20-40% without experiencing a year-to-year decline in numbers. High reproductive rates, high mortality rates and long distance dispersal behavior results in extensive gene flow within wolf populations and between wolf packs.

In Alaska and other areas, if wolves are not hunted or trapped, most mortality is from intraspecific aggression (fighting with other wolves). In trapped wolf populations, natural mortality rates are often lower than in untrapped populations.

In coastal areas of Alaska, where fox rabies is endemic, wolves are periodically reduced to low levels by rabies.

Practical Aspects of managing moose in areas where the LDDE exists

Usually, without predator control, hunters can take about 5% of a low-density moose population each year – almost all of the harvest must be bulls or the population will decline.

LDDE does not present a biological problem – moose are not likely to become threatened, endangered or extinct due to predation.

The fact that the LDDE prevails in large areas does not usually present a management problem either. Interior Alaska is sparsely populated and access to moose populations is often poor. This means that hunting pressure is relatively light in many areas anyway.

The LDDE can cause a management problem around villages, or in areas that have become important hunting areas for Alaskans near the road system. In these areas, people need or want to harvest more moose than the system can support. In Alaska, moose are valuable to people as a source of food and income (i.e. guiding and transporting hunters), particularly in rural areas. This is why people often express the desire for predator control.

In some areas, where there is a demand to increase moose harvests, it might be possible to harvest more moose by reducing bear predation. Although this idea is reasonable, it is a relatively new idea, has not been adequately tested in Alaska, and programs of this nature need to be viewed as experiments.

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Debra Higgins

From: John Manly
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 11:25 AM
To: lhscjwm+pr@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: Press Release - Keller introduces anti-predator control resolution
Attachments: PR - Keller Introduces Anti-Predator Control Resolution.doc

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 30, 2008 **CONTACT:** Rep. Wes Keller (907) 465-2186

Keller Introduces Anti-Predator Control Resolution

HJR 31 Answers Congressional Critics Attempt to Meddle in State's Programs

(Juneau) - Representative Wes Keller (R-Wasilla) today introduced House Joint Resolution 31 (HJR 31) addressed to Congress in response to H.R. 3663 by Congressman George Miller (D-California). The Congressional bill makes it a crime punishable by a \$50,000 fine for Alaskans to continue management of predator populations.

"Animal rights activist have found a friend in Congressman Miller, who does not make allowance for realities in Alaska," said. Rep. Keller. "The bill would not prevent aerial predator control if the animals are killing livestock, but does not make the same exception to allow for managing for abundance of moose and caribou in Alaska. This is management of one of Alaska's very important assets from Washington, D.C. and it is not acceptable.

"Our delegation has been fighting in the halls of Congress against this and other legislation that is meddling with Alaska's assets and lifestyle. This resolution will let them know we support them in this fight to protect Alaska," added Keller. "Predator control based on California values is one of the most visible intrusions making its way through Congress. We don't have the highway system they have in the Lower 48, and access is by boat or plane. Some outsiders just don't seem to understand the handicap it would be for our game management."

HJR 31 has been referred to the House Resources Committee.

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 14

MEMO

To: Representative Craig Johnson

Fm: Jim Pound

Cc: Representative Carl Gatto

Date: January 30, 2008

Re: Request for Hearing HJR 31

Please accept this memo and the attached packet as a request for the House Resources Committee to schedule for hearing House Joint Resolution 31 Opposing the enactment of the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2007 that intends to prohibit aerial hunting of wildlife, which is essential for predator control in Alaska.

HJR 31 is a direct reaction to a bill introduced in Congress by Congressman George Miller of California aimed specifically at Alaska's predator control program. This resolution will notify the members of Congress that we as a state legislature understand managing for abundance and do not need assistance in making decisions from Washington, D.C.

I urge your assistance by placing HJR 31 on the House Resources Committee hearing schedule at your earliest convenience.

Attachments: Sponsor Statement, HJR 31, H.R. 3663, Congressman Miller's Introduction Press Release,
F&G Wildlife Report

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