

**HB**

**220**

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/23/07

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 5/7/07

**Resources Committee** considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 220(JUD)

HB 220 BAN COMPUTER-ASSISTED REMOTE HUNTING

"An Act prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting."

and recommends:

- be replaced with  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous  SCS or  CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Letter of Intent
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

<b>SENATE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
<b>HOUSE BILL:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

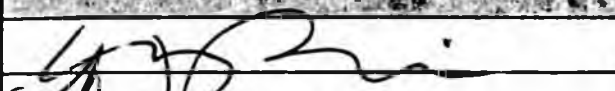
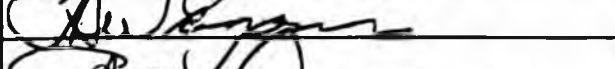

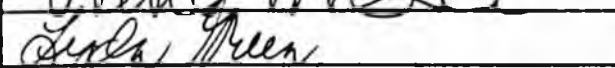
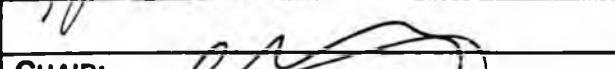

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
DFG	3/30			✓	1
DPS	4/12			✓	2

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	wielechowski	✓			
	WAGNER	✓			
	STEVENS	✗			
	McGuire	✓			
	Green	✓			
CHAIR: 	Huggins	✓			

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*While in Session*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4968  
Fax: (907) 465-2040



*While in Anchorage*  
716 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 269-0117  
Fax: (907) 269-0119

## REPRESENTATIVE BOB BUCH

Representative\_Bob\_Buch@legis.state.ak.us

Date: April 23, 2007

To: Senator Charlie Huggins, Chairman  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Senate

From: Representative Bob Buch  
Alaska State House

Re: Hearing Request for HB 220

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Dear Senator Huggins:

I respectfully request that House Bill 220, which would prohibit computer assisted remote hunting in Alaska be scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Resources Committee. This bill recently passed the House with a unanimous vote.

Attached you will find a copy of the bill, sponsor statement, sectional and background information. I am also attaching numerous letters of support from organizations such as the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Humane Society, ASPCA, and Alaska Conservation Alliance. The measure is also endorsed by the NRA and the Alaska Outdoors Council (AOC) who testified in support of the bill during hearings in the House.

Please feel free to contact me, or my staff Deborah Brevoort (x 3467), if you need additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. L. Buch".

Representative Bob Buch  
House District 27

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*While in Session*  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4968  
Fax: (907) 465-2040



*While in Anchorage*  
716 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 269-0117  
Fax: (907) 269-0119

## REPRESENTATIVE BOB BUCH

Representative\_Bob\_Buch@legis.state.ak.us

### Sponsor Statement

#### HB 220

#### **An Act prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting**

This bill would outlaw computer assisted remote hunting in Alaska. This practice began in Texas in 2005 when an entrepreneur offered "hunters" the ability to shoot big game on his land via remote control technology.

Computerized hunting—or internet hunting, as it is sometimes called— enables a person anywhere in the world to hunt big game from the comfort of their homes. Through the use of the internet, a computer can be hooked up to a webcam and rifle mounted on a remote control rig. The "hunter" is able to control the aiming and firing of the rifle from their keypad and to make a kill with the click of a mouse.

Currently, twenty five states have passed legislation to ban internet hunting. Nine other states have legislation pending to outlaw it as well.

HB 220 has three important provisions. First, it would prohibit individuals from engaging in internet hunting in Alaska. It would also prohibit anyone from providing services or operating facilities in the state to enable computerized hunting activities. Finally, it would make sure that future technology designed to assist the legitimate needs of handicapped or disabled hunters would not be subject to the ban created in the bill.

I urge your support of HB 220.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyda Green  
Sen. Gary Stevens  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-3878  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
800-862-3878

## Senate Resources Committee

### MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 25, 2007  
**To:** Kirsten Waid, Senate Secretary  
**From:** Senator Charlie Huggins, Chair Senate Resources  
**Re:** Senate Resources Committee Schedule

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### Committee Schedule

#### Senate Resources

For April 27

and the week of April 30 – May 4

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held in the  
Butrovich Room 205*

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

#### Friday, April 27

- + **HB 186 SPORT FISHING GUIDE RECORDS**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **SJR 4 NATURAL GAS FOR STATE RESIDENTS**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **SB 80 OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION TAX EXPENDITURES**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **SB 57 MARINE PARKS ADDITIONS/HUNTING ALLOWED**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **SB 71 PUBLIC ACCESS TO FISHING STREAMS-** **BILL HEARING SB 71 CANCELLED**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set

BPH/S

#### Monday, April 30

- + **HB 220 PROHIBIT COMPUTER ASSISTED HUNTING**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **SJR 6 OPPOSE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR ANWR**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
- + **HB 152 ESTABLISH RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND/ACCOUNT**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set

BPH/S

#### Wednesday, May 2

Bill Previously Heard/Scheduled

#### Friday, May 4

Bill Previously Heard/Scheduled

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sen. Charlie Huggins, Chair  
Sen. Bert Stedman, Vice Chair  
Sen. Lyda Green  
Sen. Gary Stevens  
Sen. Lesil McGuire  
Sen. Bill Wielechowski  
Sen. Thomas Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 119  
Juneau AK 99801-1182  
907-465-3878  
Fax: 907-465-3265  
800-862-3878

## Senate Resources Committee

Butrovich – Room 205

Monday, May 7, 2007  
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

### AGENDA

- + **HB 87 CITIZEN ADVISORY COMM. ON FEDERAL AREAS**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
  
- + **HB 220 PROHIBIT COMPUTER ASSISTED HUNTING**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
  
- + **SB 57 MARINE PARKS ADDITIONS/HUNTING ALLOWED**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
  
- + **SJR 4 NATURAL GAS FOR STATE RESIDENTS**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set
  
- + **HJR 4 KENAI/KASILOF SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY**  
Testimony: Time Limit May be Set

**BPH/S**

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 220(JUD)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Offered: 4/16/07  
Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES BUCH, Gatto, Fairclough, Thomas, Neuman, Crawford, Wilson, Seaton, Foster, Samuels, Stoltze, Holmes, Gara, Lynn, Ramras, Johnson, Roses, Dahlstrom, Harris, LeDoux, Gardner, Johansen

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

1 **"An Act prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting."**

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

3 **\* Section 1.** AS 16.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 16.05.797. Computer-assisted remote hunting prohibited.** (a) A person  
5 may not engage in computer-assisted remote hunting or provide or operate a facility  
6 for computer-assisted remote hunting in the state. This subsection applies to any  
7 person engaged in computer-assisted remote hunting if the game or any device,  
8 equipment, or software used for computer-assisted remote hunting is located in the  
9 state.

10 (b) This section does not apply to a person with physical disabilities using  
11 equipment or devices designed to assist with the disability while present in the field  
12 and meaningfully participating in the act of hunting under regulations adopted by the  
13 Board of Game.

14 (c) In this section,

15 (1) "computer-assisted remote hunting" means the use of a computer or

1 any other device, equipment, or software to remotely control the aiming and discharge  
2 of a firearm, bow and arrow, or any other weapon used to hunt any game bird, game  
3 animal, or fur-bearing animal while not in the physical presence of the animal;

4 (2) "facility" means real property and improvements on the real  
5 property associated with computer-assisted remote hunting.

6 (d) A person who violates (a) of this section is, upon conviction, guilty of a  
7 class A misdemeanor. If a violation is continuing in nature, each day the violation  
8 continues constitutes a separate offense.

*Electronic tagging*

# 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

March 27, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Sectional summary of HB 220 (Work Order No. 25-LS0795\A)

**TO:** Representative Bob Buch  
Attn: Deborah Brevoort

**FROM:** Brian J. Kaine *BJK*  
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of HB 220, a bill prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting.

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

Section 1 of the bill adds a new section to AS 16.43 prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting.

Subsection (a) prohibits the hunting activity and states to whom this section applies.

Subsection (b) states that a person in violation of this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and punishable, upon conviction, for a fine of up to \$500 for each offense.

Subsection (c) states that this section does not apply to persons with physical disabilities using equipment or devices designed to assist with the disability while engaged in the act of hunting.

Subsection (d) provides definitions for "computer-assisted remote hunting" and "facility."

BJK:ljw  
07-165.ljw

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: HB220-DPS-AWT-4-2-07  
 Bill Version: HB 220  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title "An act regarding computer assisted hunting regulation of private investigators / agencies"  
 Sponsor Representative Buch  
 Requester House Resources

Dept. Affected: Public Safety  
 RDU Alaska State Troopers  
 Component Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
 Component No. 2746

**Expenditures/Revenues**

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
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 (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

This bill would outlaw computer assisted remote hunting in Alaska. It would also prohibit anyone from providing services or operating facilities in the state to enable computerized hunting activities.

Passage of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety.

Prepared by: Lt. Rodney Dial  
 Division: Division of Alaska State Troopers  
 Approved by: Commissioner Walt Monegan  
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

Phone 907-247-4480  
 Date/Time 4/2/07 0830  
 Date 4/2/2007

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: HB220-DFG-DWC-03-30-07  
 Bill Version: HR 220  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Fish and Game  
 Title Ban Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting RDU Wildlife Conservation  
 Component Wildlife Conservation  
 Sponsor Representatives Buch, Gatto, Fairclough  
 Requester House Resources Committee Component No. 473

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

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

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

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)  
 Passage of this bill would not have any fiscal impact on the Department of Fish and Game.

Prepared by: Matt Robus Phone 465-4191  
 Division: Wildlife Conservation Date/Time 03/30/07 2:00 p.m.  
 Approved by: Denby Lloyd Date 3/30/2007  
 Agency: Department of Fish and Game

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 3  
 Bill Version: CSHB 220(JUD)  
 (H) Publish Date: 4/16/07

Revision Date/Time : CORRECTED 4/12/2007 9:02

Dept. Affected: Public Safety

Title "An Act prohibiting computer-assisted remote hunting."

RDU Alaska State Troopers

Component Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sponsor Representative Buch

Requester House Judiciary

Component No. 2746

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

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

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

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Patch						
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 (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

CSHB 220 (RES) is an act prohibiting computer assisted remote hunting in Alaska. It would also prohibit anyone from providing services or operating facilities in the state to enable computerized hunting activities.

This committee substitute changed the penalties for violation of this act and reorganized the sections in the bill.

Passage of this legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Public Safety.

Prepared by: Lt. Rodney Dial  
 Division: Division of Alaska State Troopers  
 Approved by: Commissioner Walt Monagan  
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

Phone 907-247-4480  
 Date/Time 4/12/07 9:02 AM  
 Date 4/12/2007

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

HC60 Box 299C • Copper Center, AK 99573

Phone: 907-822-3755 • FAX: 907-822-3752

Email: [office@alaskaprohunter.org](mailto:office@alaskaprohunter.org)      [www.alaskaprohunter.org](http://www.alaskaprohunter.org)

March 27, 2007

Honorable Bob Buch  
State of Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: HB 220

Dear Representative Buch,

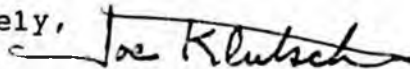
On behalf of Alaska Professional Hunters Association, I am writing to offer support of HB 220. As an organization representing Alaska's guiding profession, we are committed to fair chase hunting practices and ethical standards of conduct.

True hunting is a problem solving exercise which involves planning along with knowledge of the specie being pursued and its habitat. A hunter must be prepared to cope with all the elements of nature common to outdoor activities especially in the wild places of Alaska. Hunting is a real life drama which can involve doubt, frustration, anxiety, discovery, great physical and mental challenge, joy and disappointment. The outcome of this process is by no means assured.

Organizing the killing of an animal via cyberspace and robotics is not "hunting". Absent the above mentioned elements, this activity constitutes nothing more than the mechanical slaughter of an animal over the internet. We find this practice unacceptable and urge the Legislature to outlaw it in the State of Alaska.

Thank You for you initiative in this regard and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joe Klutsch - President - APHA



Jill A. Buckley, Esq.  
Senior Director, Legislative Services  
& Mediation Training  
P.O. Box 48  
Pismo Beach, CA 93448

jib@aspc.org  
tel. 805-474-9660  
fax 805-474-9740  
www.aspc.org

March 28, 2007

Representative Robert Buch FAX: 907-465-2040  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Letter in Support of HB 220, Banning Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting**

Dear Representative Buch:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our 1700 Alaska members and donors, I am writing to express strong support for HB 220 to ban computer-assisted remote hunting.

As you are no doubt aware, the necessity for this bill came about as a result of reports in 2005 that a Texas rancher had plans to operate a business via the internet whereby individuals would be able to point and shoot a rifle via remote control, from their own personal computers allowing for the killing of animals in what amounts to a video-monitored canned hunt. Since then, many states have outlawed this so-called "sport".

At the time the story broke, ASPCA President Edwin J. Sayres stated that "Promoting the killing of animals via the Internet and marketing hunting as a video game is absolutely despicable." Legitimate hunters do not consider this to be "fair" sport.

Thank you very much for considering this important humane issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Buckley", is written over the typed name.

Jill A. Buckley, Esq.

# THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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President's Emeriti

William H. Hadden, Esq.  
Vice President & Senior Counsel  
Phone: 408.555.5555  
www.humanesociety.org  
1000 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

**Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 220**

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

On behalf of the The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our over 17,000 members and constituents in Alaska, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 220, which would prohibit engaging in Internet hunting or operating an Internet hunting facility in the state.

H.B. 220 was introduced in reaction to the development of a click and shoot mechanism that operates like an Internet computer game. This operation based in Texas – Live-Shot.com – allowed clients to point and shoot a rifle via remote control. Live-shot.com was linked to a platform with a rifle and camera that could be remotely aimed at animals in what amounts to a video-monitored canned hunt. While Texas passed legislation banning Internet hunting in 2005, effectively stopping this activity on Live-Shot.com, an internet hunting system could be started or accessed virtually anywhere across the country – including Alaska. Unfortunately, sick ideas have a tendency to spread. Furthermore, the operator of Live-Shot.com stated in a December 5, 2006 article in the Arizona Republic that “Internet hunting may go offshore,” clearly indicating his desire to continue to pursue remote-control hunting.

Internet hunting is unethical and unsporting. It doesn't take a very strict definition of 'sportsmanship' to see that this practice, if allowed to proceed, would violate every ethical standard that hunters profess. It involves no hunting skill whatsoever, and distances the hunter entirely from the act of killing, denying animals any of the 'respect' that hunters avow they feel for their prey. This pay-per-view slaughter has garnered strong opposition from The National Rifle Association and the Safari Club International, as well as animal welfare proponents.

This activity also poses serious safety concerns. Allowing anyone who logs into a website to fire a weapon into a hunting preserve is a danger to anything that crosses the gun's path—including non-target wildlife as well as people.

Since the inception of Internet hunting, 26 states have passed preemptive legislation or regulations banning this egregious activity. Nine states, including Alaska, are considering legislation in the 2007 session. Most states have taken or are taking action to prevent the activity in their state. I encourage Alaska to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on remote control and Internet hunting in Alaska. We urge your support of this important legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Dave Pauli**  
Northern Rockies Regional Director  
490 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 215  
Billings, MT 59101



# Alaska Conservation Alliance

*Uniting for Alaska's Future*

---

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Bob Buch  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 430  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Buch,

On behalf of the 40 conservation groups and the 38,000 Alaskans that are represented by the Alaska Conservation Alliance, I am pleased to acknowledge our wholehearted support for your bill HB 220, which bans computer-assisted, remote hunting in Alaska. I think Commissioner Carl Rosier said it best when speaking about this issue: "The preemptive nature of banning computer-assisted hunting is a significant action for conservation of wildlife and protection of our hunting heritage."

As a 30 year resident from a hunting family, I find the notion of reducing our grand wildlife to cheap computer thrills appalling and contrary to our Alaskan heritage. In closing, the Alaska Conservation Alliance would like to thank and commend you and the co-sponsors of the measure for working pro-actively to prevent the practice of Internet hunting from coming to Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Troll". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kate Troll  
Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alaska House Resources Committee  
**FROM:** Matt Robus,  
Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation,  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
**RE:** House Bill 220, "Ban Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting"  
**DATE:** April 2, 2007

The Division of Wildlife Conservation in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is charged, among other things, with the management of hunting and trapping in Alaska. The regulations governing hunting are written by the Alaska Board of Game, a body appointed by the Governor. The Board has instituted numerous regulations meant to encourage hunter ethics and the concept of fair-chase hunting in this state. House Bill 220 proposes to outlaw an activity that has not yet been introduced in Alaska, but that our agency believes should not be brought to our state.

ADF&G agrees with the motivation behind this bill. Computer-assisted remote hunting is not fair-chase hunting; it is not sport. It runs counter to the long history and tradition of hunting wild animals in the state of Alaska.

Section (c) of House Bill 220 addresses the availability of hunting opportunities to people with physical disabilities. The Division of Wildlife Conservation has an active outreach effort to make hunting accessible to all people, to specially accommodate those with physical disabilities. We have a number of programs in place to help hunters get out in the field and enjoy real hunting experiences regardless of their physical abilities. We do not believe that computer-assisted remote hunting is a true hunting experience, nor do we believe that it provides such an experience to people with disabilities.

March 11, 2007

## Should Killing Be Merely a Mouse Click Away?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slouched at a computer, the hunter perks up as a 12-point buck eases into view on his screen. Maneuvering his mouse, he swivels the rifle and focuses the cross hairs. With a click of the mouse, the rifle fires a bullet, mortally wounding the deer.

Call it hunting by remote control. And though it is still more concept than trend, lawmakers in several states have set their sights on stopping the practice in its tracks.

Illinois State Representative Dan Reitz has proposed banning such hunting in his state, saying that such ready, aim, click kills, or the prospect of them, push the ethical envelope and violate the spirit of fair-chase hunts.

"I just think it's wrong," Reitz said, adding that the use of such technology — which features a Web camera and a .22-caliber rifle atop a remote-controlled rig — would "give all sportsmen a black eye."

Technology that enables people to stalk online and kill real prey has alarmed hunters and lawmakers intent on pre-emptively blocking the practice. About two dozen states already have outlawed the method, which the Humane Society of the United States calls pay-per-view slaughter.

"The animal has no chance," Arkansas State Senator Ruth Whitaker said earlier this year while introducing a measure that calls for banning potential cyberhunting in her state.

"There's no challenge for you — except knowing how to use a computer and push a button," she said. "You never left your tufted sofa. What's sportsmanlike about that?"

The issue emerged in early 2005, when an entrepreneur from Texas, John Lockwood, set up a Web site that allowed subscribing hunters with a high-speed computer connection to shoot antelope, wild pigs and other game on his 220-acre San Antonio spread via remote control — from anywhere. Lockwood offered to send the animals' heads to subscribers.

During a demonstration, a friend of Lockwood's used a computer 45 miles away to shoot a wild hog as it fed at Lockwood's ranch. But, according to news reports, he only wounded the animal. Lockwood, who was on site, finished the kill.

Lockwood's venture barely got started before Texas lawmakers shot it down. Since then, other states have hustled to get something on their books barring the practice.

Even die-hard hunters are opposed, saying that shooting an animal via computer is not sporting and does not require the element of fair chase in conventional hunting through forest, field or marsh. Some states

have posed similar objections to hunting big game in captivity as trophies.

"We believe sick ideas have a bad way of spreading, so we want to make sure we nip this in the bud and ban it in all states," Michael Markarian, executive vice president of the Humane Society, said of cyber-hunting. The group is also pressing for a federal ban.

Pro-hunting groups, including Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association, also oppose remote-control hunting.

Gary Harpole, an Illinois hunter who figures he has killed 100 deer, most with a bow, said the practice "takes away from what hunting really is all about: getting outdoors, experiencing nature."

"To me, 90 percent of hunting is the experience, 10 percent is the harvest," said Harpole, who runs a hunter's lodge at his rural home. Bagging a buck by computer, he said, "is a lazy way of hunting."

But Lockwood has said the technology could help people with disabilities or perhaps servicemen overseas shoot game. And an attendant in the blind with the remote-controlled rifle can override any unsafe or unethical shots.

Lockwood could not be reached for this article, but he said last year that legislatures banning the practice had "no clue what they're passing laws against."

"Ever since we stopped running after our prey and killing with our hands, we've evolved by distancing ourselves further and further from the game and making it more and more efficient for whatever reason we want to take it," he said.

Reitz is not swayed by such arguments. "There's a lot of opportunities out there for people with disabilities," he said. "I just think this is a bad way to do it."

His bill, which was referred to an Illinois House rules committee on Feb. 22, would amend the state's wildlife code to bar a person from operating, providing, selling, using or offering "any computer software or service that allows a person not physically present at the hunt site to remotely control a weapon that could be used to take wildlife by remote operation."

Use of such equipment would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and \$1,500 in fines. Those who provided the software or services would face a misdemeanor carrying a possible 364 days in jail and \$2,500 in fines.

Missouri already has such a ban on the books, last year adopting an administrative rule specifying that "wildlife may be taken only in the immediate physical presence of the taker and may not be taken by use of computer-assisted remote hunting devices."

Bill Heatherly, the Missouri Department of Conservation's wildlife programs supervisor, said he never imagined the need for such a measure despite the sport's astounding technological leaps since man first chucked rocks to kill dinner.

"I've been telling people I'm starting to understand how my father must have felt in his later years," he said.

"Certainly, I didn't imagine this."

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## Internet Hunting: Where Does Your State Stand?

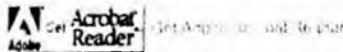


Internet hunting, also called remote controlled hunting, utilizes Internet technology to allow a computer user to aim and fire a weapon that is mounted on a mechanized tripod at a remote location, usually a game ranch where exotic

animals are kept penned and shot at close range. The customer signs up through a web site, and pays a user fee and a deposit for the animal that he or she wishes to kill. The animal is lured to a feeding station within range of the mounted rifle. When the animal approaches, the desktop hunter uses the computer mouse to line up the cross hairs and fire the rifle. Guides at the game ranch will finish the job if the shot misses. Trophy mounts are prepared at the ranch and shipped to the customer. This pay-per-view slaughter bears no resemblance to traditional hunting. Even pro-hunting groups denounce internet hunting because it violates the ideals of a "fair chase."

States are taking action against this technological cruelty and introducing bills to ban internet hunting. Please contact The HSUS Government Affairs Section at 202-452-1100 or email [legislation@hsus.org](mailto:legislation@hsus.org) for further information.

Map of states with current or pending bans (PDF)




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The Latest Edition: Internet Animal Cruelty: Pay-Per-View Hunting

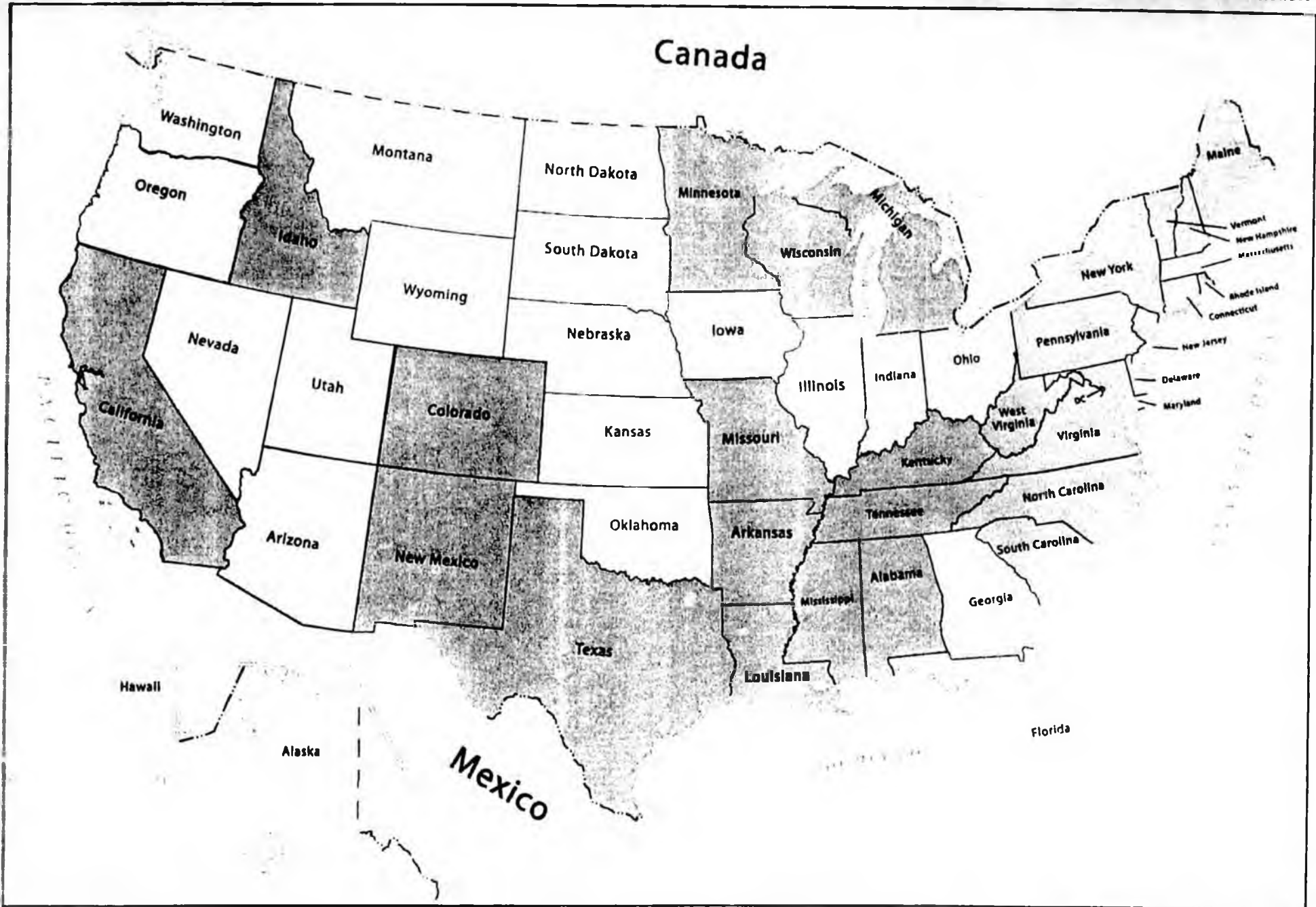


# Internet Hunting Bans

 26 states where bills have been signed into law or regulations adopted

8 states where bills are pending in 2007

As of 03/30/2007



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
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