

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1999-2000 8672

10120 SENATE RESOURCES

commercial fishermen have escapement levels to achieve before we go fishing, its always been under strict guidelines and that is just as it should be. The Copper river commercial fishery is over 100 years old and only recently have the upriver reaches become accessible to many users. I don't think its proper to have a biased and unknowledgeable person, making decisions on how the resource should be protected. Mr. Umphenhour is purely allocative and while trying to sound scientific, he forgets, this arena is to be left to properly trained biologists. This man makes accusations towards my user group and makes false claims about genetic diversity on king salmon stocks. I would like to see his credentials to make such statements. These statements have been made to the board as well as the public, damaging our credibility and reputation.

Members of the Committee, please stop and think about the of lack of fairness we are facing while trying to protect our livelihood and our resource. Also please remember, no one cares more about the health of the fishery, than one who stakes their very life on it, the commercial fisherman. **It is wrong for political appointees to think of themselves as biologists. Mr. Umphenhour must be removed from this position, he is very inappropriate.** I am enclosing a transcript of Mr. Umphenhour's comments to House Resources after they read my letter to him.

Thank you for the chance to comment,

Bob Martinson
900 Iroquois Drive
Wasilla, AK 9965

Enclosure

Virgil Umphenour's response to Ramona Barnes' questioning re: Bob Martinson's letter to the House Resources Committee's Alaska Board of Fisheries Confirmation Hearing on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 .

On FWSAC:

"People in FWSAC don't like me and there is a good reason for it. FWSAC owes the State of Alaska 28 million dollars currently. The Department of Investment has extended their loan with no interest. Their not paying any interest on it. FWSAC, I don't feel, has operated in a responsible manner to production of chum and pink salmon. As high as 97% of the harvest in 1996 of chum salmon harvested in Prince William Sound was hatchery-produced. I feel it is irresponsible to mass produce salmon from hatcheries to the detriment of the wild stocks. The Board is mandated by the Constitution of the State and the Legislature to manage salmon resources in such a manner that the wild stocks take priority over enhanced or hatchery-produced stocks. That's why the people from FWSAC do not care for me because I think they have been producing too many chum salmon and pink salmon, and they have put the wild stocks in Prince William Sound at risk because of that."

On the Cordova 1996 BOF meeting and the Copper River:

"To the best of my memory the Board did not enter into Executive Session in the meeting of December 1996 which was conducted in Cordova. So I don't know what they are talking about as far as the Board going into Executive Session. I do know that some of the driftnet fishermen fish inside the barrier islands of the Copper River and the water is 10 feet deep and using drift gillnets that are 29 feet deep. And using them in a manner, in the manner that you would use a beach seine. And they are seining the king salmon out. They're causing a problem with genetic diversity of the king salmon stocks in the Copper River: because they kill between 90-100% of king salmon when they're present, knowing when king salmon are getting accustomed to the change from saltwater to freshwater. They spend 7 days to 2 weeks milling in out of the mouth of Copper River. I don't think that is a responsible way to fish, and because I was one of the people that caused that fishery to be restricted a little bit to allow king salmon up the river unmolested, some of the commercial fishermen involved in that practice naturally do not like me and consider me a ? because they don't like responsible fish management. They like to be able to kill every last fish and they don't care if the sport fishery and personal use fishermen and subsistence fishermen get restricted upriver as long as they can catch all they can at the mouth of the river first."

Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-3874

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chairman, Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Sent By: FAX (907) 465-4928

Re: Objection to Board of Fisheries Incumbent Appointments

Dear Senator Halford,

I ask your support in rejecting the confirmation of Dan K. Coffey, Grant J. Miller and Virgil L. Umphenour to the public seats on the Board of Fisheries. The current Board of Fisheries is not a balanced, well-rounded board. Reappointment of the incumbents does nothing to address this imbalance.

As a minimum, one of the three appointments should have current and direct experience as a commercial harvester. I am such a candidate and did request the Governor appoint me to the Board of Fisheries. Attached is a copy of my request and the Governor's response.

I will be at the Anchorage LIO for the 3:00 p.m. hearing today and would like to speak on behalf of balancing the board. I can be contacted at the address listed above, by telephone at (907) 694-3874, by fax at (907) 694-3832, or by e-mail at: gabrys@alaska.net.

Sincerely,


Bruce J. Gabrys



TONY KNOWLES
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

April 26, 1999

Mr. Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577

Dear Mr. Gabrys:

The appointment in which you have expressed an interest has been made. The deadline for making these appointments was March 31, 1999, the day we received your application. Each candidate had impressive professional and personal qualifications.

Governor Tony Knowles has reappointed Dan K. Coffey of Anchorage, Grant J. Miller of Sitka, and Virgil L. Umphenour of Fairbanks to public seats on the Board of Fisheries.

We appreciate your willingness to assist Governor Knowles by applying for service on the board. If there are other boards or commissions that you would like to be considered for, please notify my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Smith".

Cindy Smith
Coordinator
Boards and Commissions

Bruce J. Gabrys
10229 Baffin Street
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-3874

March 30, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Sent By: FAX (907) 465-3532
and USPS

Re: Request for Appointment to the Board of Fisheries

Dear Governor Knowles,

I am requesting appointment to the Board of Fisheries. Adding my name to the list of applicants provides an option for you to balance the composition of the Board. I am a twenty year resident of Alaska, a small business owner in Eagle River, a sport fisherman, and a commercial fisherman with fifteen years of experience fishing Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet waters. I am confident that I have the broad range of experience and integrity required for serving on this very important board.

My background includes over twenty years of public service, fifteen of which has been in the Alaska National Guard. As a reference of my integrity, dedication and character; I offer one of your former commissioners, Jake Lestenkof. I had the privilege to work for Major General Lestenkof for the four years prior to his retirement.

I can be contacted at the address listed above, by telephone at (907) 694-3874, by fax at (907) 694-3832, or by e-mail at: gabryst@alaska.net. I am looking forward to serving on the Board of Fisheries. I am certain you will be pleased with my performance as your appointee.

Sincerely,



Bruce J. Gabrys

Commercial Fishing

Property Management

GABRYS & COMPANY
P.O. Box 771751
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Bruce J. Gabrys

10229 Baffin St.
Eagle River, AK 99577

(907) 694-3874
~~FAX (907) 694-3874~~
E-Mail: gabryst@alaska.net
FAX (907) 694-3832



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
 committee on BOARD OF FISHERIES committee name
CONFIRMATION , dated MAY 3 1999
 bill/subject

Dear Chairman Halford and Senate Resources Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REAPPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER AND VIRGIL UMPHENOUR TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES.

As a member of a local advisory committee and a member of the public, I have testified before these Board members and served in the committee process several times recently. While we may not always agree, I feel their positions on issues have been well thought out and in the best interests of Alaska's resources and people. At no time is it possible to satisfy ALL special interests, including mine.

While conserving habitat and resource, the members of the Board of Fisheries must recognize the needs of subsistence, personal use, sport fishing, commercial sport fishing, and commercial fishing. In a salmon fishery as complex as Cook Inlet, managing for the sustainability of these mixed weak and strong stocks while allocating for public uses, further complicates the issues. These three board members have worked hard to insure that all needs are met.

I ask you also to please disregard Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 99-034 strongly opposing the confirmation of the three current members. I am appalled and embarrassed that my local government, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, would blatantly advocate and lobby for a special segment of our local economy to the detriment of other viable and vital parts of our local business sector, let alone the damage this type of thinking does to the public's uses of our common resources.

Please support the confirmation of the reappointments of current BOF members Coffey, Miller and Umphenour.

Signed: W.S. Stockwell

Testifier

BILL STOCKWELL

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 721, CAMPER LANDING AK 99572

Address

(907) 595-1540

Phone No.

Subject: Board of Fisheries Confirmations

Date: Mon, 03 May 1999 11:05:41 -0800

From: susan cutler <scutler@sinbad.net>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford,

I just learned that you **Resources Committee** will be discussing the **reappointment of Dan Coffey, Grant Miller, and Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fisheries** this afternoon. Please provide this note to the members of the committee.

As President of the **Alaska Sportfishing Association**, I would like to make the members of the committee aware that we endorse the reappointment of these three fine gentlemen. Although we didn't always agree with the way they voted, we are comfortable that overall they placed the health of the fish first, considered subsistence/personal use harvesting a priority, and then allocated the harvestable surplus to the competing user groups using the allocation criteria that is the statutes. Their initiation and use of the new committee process which enhances public involvement in the Board decision making scheme.

The Alaska Sportfishing Association recommends that the committee send the appointments to the floor with a recommendation to approve.

thank you

Phil Cutler, President
Alaska Sportfishing Association

Subject: BOF Conf. Hearings

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 1999 19:36:40 -0700

From: Mark Buchner & Suzy Williamson <turney@alaska.net>

Organization: King Charters

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

**CC: Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us;,
Representative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Halford;

I am in opposition of

the appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board Of Fish. He has no knowledge of, or respect for the public process established at statehood for regulating Alaska's fisheries resources. He is also a biased decisionmaker who has demonstrated that he is not willing or able to factfind to make the best and most informed decision possible. For these reasons I oppose the re-appointment of V. Umphenour.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Mark Buchner
King Charters
Valdez, Alaska



MAY 03 1999

Old Harbor Tribal Council

P.O. Box 62, Old Harbor, Alaska 99643
Phone: (907) 286-2215 Fax: (907) 286-2277

April 27, 1999

Honorable Tony Knowles
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Decisions by Board of Fish

Dear Governor Knowles,

The Old Harbor Tribal Council wishes to thank you and the Board of Fish for the closure of Sitkalidak Straits to hard on bottom trawling. This is an important marine rearing area adjacent to our community that should have been protected many years ago. Finally, during their March meeting, the Board of Fish resolved to limit the destruction caused by the hard on bottom trawls.

We wish to commend Chairman John White for his deliberative management of the trawl issue and especially want to recognize the efforts of the Board's ground fish committee, Larry Engle, Ed Dursham and Virgil Umphenour to understand the issue and to work with stakeholders toward compromise. Virgil Umphenour, in particular, took the time to visit with representatives from our community and to discuss their concerns.

I would also want to thank the Board of Fish for their cautious approach to tanner crab management in the Kodiak area. We believe the new Tanner Crab Management Plan will prove an effective tool for conservative use of tanner crab stocks. We remain concerned, however, about the status of red king crab in the Gulf of Alaska and encourage you and your staff to motivate ADF&G to develop a comprehensive red king crab recovery plan for the Gulf of Alaska.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact our office in Old Harbor.

Very truly yours,

Tony Azuyak, President

cc Senator Jerry Mackie
Representative Alan Austerman
Senator Rick Halford, Senate Resource Chairman
Chairman John White, Board of Fish



Southeast Alaska Seiners

April 21, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chair, Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Halford and members of the Resources Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Southeast Alaska Seiners, a membership organization which represents commercial fishermen, to urge you to support the confirmation of Grant Miller to the Board of Fisheries. In addition, we believe that it is time to include on the Board of Fisheries additional members who have knowledge of the commercial fisheries.

The Board of Fisheries is charged with stewardship of our fishery resources in compliance with the sustained yield principle of the Alaska Constitution. In order to accomplish this important function, the law calls for appointment to the Board of individuals with knowledge and ability in the regulation of the fisheries. Thus, in order to perform its function, the Board of Fisheries must have members who are conversant with the fisheries under its authority.

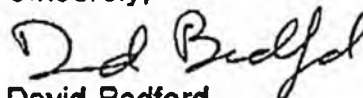
Most of the harvest of Alaska's fishery resources takes place in commercial fisheries. Most of this harvest occurs in marine waters with much of it comprised of species, such as shrimp, crab, and ground fish, that spend no part of their life cycle in the fresh water. As such, it is critical that the Board of Fisheries include individuals who have not only a commitment to the effective management of the commercial marine fisheries but who also bring their personal knowledge of these fisheries to the Board's deliberations.

In Southeast Alaska, the commercial fishing industry provides 7500 full-time, year-round jobs in a region with about 75,000 residents. Thus, effective regulation of the commercial fisheries that conserves the resource and provides for efficient harvest of surplus production is crucial to the continued economic health of the region. To assure effective regulation, the Board should have members who have knowledge of the marine commercial fisheries.

SEAS supports Grant Miller for reappointment to the Board of Fisheries because he has served well in his past term and because he is the only member of the Board with experience in the commercial fisheries beyond near-shore, terminal area salmon fisheries. In addition, SEAS believes that the Board of Fisheries would be well served by appointment of other members who can supply expertise in the marine commercial fisheries that are the life's blood of our coastal communities.

Thank you for your attention to these comments. If I can provide anything further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Bedford
Executive Director

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

122 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 600
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897
PHONE 907/452-8251 • FAX 907/459-3850

May 3, 1999

Senator Rick Halford
Chair, Senate Resources Committee

Dear Senator Halford:

After further review we would like to take this opportunity to reconsider our previous opposition to the appointment of Virgil Umphenour to the Board of Fish. After careful consideration of the available facts we have determined that it is in our best interest to support this seat as a representative for the Interior on the Board of Fish. Mr. Umphenour has a great deal of experience with Interior fishery issues, and knowledge about our villages.

We respectfully request that you consider retaining Mr. Umphenour on the Board of Fish. Maintaining this Interior seat on the Board of Fish is vital to our village economies.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, Inc.

for Steve Ginnis
Steve Ginnis
President

cc: Interior Tribal Councils

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|--------------|------------|---|
| Post-it® Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 5/4/99 | # of pages | 1 |
| To | Rick Halford | From | Steve Ginnis | | |
| Co./Dept. | SRC | Co. | TCC | | |
| Phone # | 465-4928 | Phone # | | | |
| Fax # | | Fax # | | | |

Subject: Board of Fisheries Appointments

Date: Mon, 03 May 1999 15:18:04 -0800

From: "Donald J. Braun" <donbraun@alaska.net>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford:

Please add the City of Chignik to those who support the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour. He has not always voted for us but he has been open with us regarding our interest in such things as:

1. The Area L State Waters Pacific Cod Fishery. You might recall that it was the reply of NMFS to my letter that was the pivotal document in the NPFMC accepting the notion that the P.Cod TAC should have a state waters component.

2. The larger issue of survival of Chignik fishermen and other small boat fishermen. The local Pacific Cod fishery contributed to that effort. Mr. Umphenour evidently extends a Fairbanks/small farmer perspective to the small boat fleets. We contend that this adds balance to the Board of Fisheries.

3. Mr. Umphenour has sought to preserve crab habitat. Our fleet would like to again harvest crab in the area. We see Mr. Umphenour's positions as consistent with small boat interests and contend that this interest is consistent with one of the guiding provisions, coastal community support, of Magnuson-Stevens.

4. As mentioned, he doesn't always agree with us. But he certainly will listen to us.

I realize that this endorsement is at the last minute. The Corps of Engineers has been occupying my time--I'm guessing that you might have seen and heard that statement in the past if not in the present.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Donald J. Braun, City Administrator, City of Chignik

Subject: Senate Confirmation of Virgil Umphenour to the Alaska Board of Fisheries

Date: Mon, 3 May 1999 16:56:52 -0800

From: "Robert Sundown" <rsundown@unicom-alaska.com>

To: <Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Rick,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Coastal Villages Region Fund, an Alaskan fishing corporation. We are in support of Virgil Umphenour's confirmation to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. Virgil has served the state's interest for all user groups and has held a fair and impartial view siding on the side of resource management and conservation, while understanding the importance of commercial fisheries to the state.

Because of his avid and well founded support of terminal fisheries, we believe he has the best interest of the fisheries and users in mind. Please share our support of Virgil Umphenour in your confirmation of his appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely Yours,
Coastal Villages Region Fund

Robert Sundown, Business & Operations Manager



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Resources Comm
Fish Board Confirmation committee name

committee on _____, dated 4/3/99
bill # / subject

Please record my support for the confirmation of Coffey, Umpenhorn and Miller to continue as members of the Board of Fisheries. They have shown a sincere desire to be thorough in their analysis on controversial issues and have displayed a high degree of fairness in their deliberations.

Signed: Don A. McKay
Testifier

Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc (Board member)
Representing (Optional)

3299 Z Johnson's Dr., Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

907-260-6675
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on BO OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

Regarding the reappointment of Virgil Umphenour,
Dan Coffey, and Grant Miller.

I oppose the reappointment of all three board members. They have consistently ignored the testimony of the commercial fishermen of Cook Inlet, as well as the biologists of the Alaska Department of fish and game. (Comm. fish Division)

They have brought a level of personal bias into the board meetings never before seen by me in over 20 years of involvement. (example) Dan Coffey told several of us during a break in his first year on the board. "I am a one issue guy - to get you out of the way and let more fish up to the Mat-Su." (para-phrased)

The other two seem to follow Dan Coffey's lead - and have consistently voted to downgrade the commercial fisheries of Cook Inlet.

Signed:

James L. Emerson (JIM EVENSON)
Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

Box 304 Kenai, AK. 99611

Address

(907) 776-8060

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on BO OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

Sirs,

I urge you not to confirm Don Coffey, Virgil Umpenaar, or Grant Miller to the BOF. I bought a Cook Inlet Drift permit in 1990. The state loaned me money to do this through the Dept. of Commerce + Economic Development. Since these board members have served, 40% of my fishing potential has been reallocated to other interests. These board members have consistently voted for these reallocations. If the legislature confirms these candidates again, wouldn't it seem fair ~~to~~ for the legislature to also appropriate funds to relieve me of 40% of my debt to the state?

The current board of fisheries has proven to be devastating to our fishery. There needs to be people on the board of fisheries that are concerned with the well-being of our commercial fisheries in Cook Inlet. Unanimous votes by the board of fisheries to reallocate the resource doesn't show that they have everyone's support to do the right thing, it shows the lack of representation for our side of the issues and it shows the magnitude of the efficiency of a pre-set agenda.

Please remember, I've lost 40% of my salmon income.

Signed: Rian J. Vanele

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 251 Nimitchik Ak 99 639

Address

567-7394

Phone number

To: ~~Senate~~ Resources Committee

Subject: Re-appointment of three board members to board of fisheries

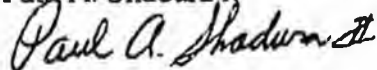
Date: MAY 3 1999

I come before this committee today to express my discontent with the current make up of the B.O.F. Of the three members up for re-appointment, two members have served for at least one complete term and still do not know how to present motions in any unstatutable regulatory language. Therefore they are incompetent to serve the people of Alaska. The third member has a pre-disposed agenda and is not open to any new concepts other than his own. There is no compromise in this position. Does this serve the people of Alaska? The current make up of the B.O.F. ignores the impact of their decisions and how they affect the local long term residents on the Kenai Peninsula. These board members tailor biological data that changes an abundant economy into one that is meager and of limited growth. A Profile of the Commercial Fishing Industry (Kenai Peninsula Borough) states that 22% of the residents and participants of the Kenai Borough's Commercial Fishery are of Alaskan Native ancestry. The B.O.F. states that they review the history before making impacting regulations, but they do not consider the impact on all the small communities and the impact by percentage of commercial fisherman in these communities.

These small communities are the backbone of rural economies of Alaska and in the Kenai Borough they are seriously overlooked by the B.O.F. The 1998 Soldotna board of fish dismantled the 1978 Cook Inlet Management Plan but stated that they implemented like considerations in their new step-down plan. Upon reviewing the B.O.F. considerations in the original 1978 plan, #2 "The commercial fishing industry in the Cook Inlet is a valuable long-term asset of the state and must be protected.....", #3 "...as recreational demands increase, the recreational users must be aware of what stocks will be managed primarily for commercial harvest in order that they don't become overly dependent on the fish for recreational purposes.....". These considerations are nowhere written in these new step-down plans. Forgotten? Or purposely negated?!! This board does not have equal representation and has never had an advocate of the Commercial Set-Net fishery statewide or even in Cook Inlet in spite of the fact that it is the dominant Limited Entry Permit Holder statewide! At present time, there is no represented, commercially knowledgeable, B.O.F. member who understands or has any commercial history in Cook Inlet. Yet there are three members that represent lesser users of the total resource. It is no wonder that recent regulations adopted for the major traditional user restricts that user to a lesser, non-viable category. Prejudice, contempt, bias, dipsomania, un-informed, arrogant, DIRTY DEEDS DONE DIRT CHEAP are all terms that I could use in describing the current board re-appointees. PLEASE, out of fairness and decency, DO NOT RE-CONFIRM: DAN COFFEY, GRANT MILLER, and VIRGIL UMPENHAUER.

From a hundred year family resident of the Kenai Peninsula

Paul A. Shadura II





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SPES committee name
 committee on Board of Fisheries, dated 5/3/99
 bill # 1 subject

*Please accept the following as
 written testimony*

Signed: Kenai Liu
 Testifier

 Representing (Optional)

 Address

 Phone number

Mr. Hudson, my name Box 87 Alim / Chik

The present board of fish came to Soldotna last winter, put more fish and more people on the Kenai River and did nothing to mitigate habitat degradation. Fish don't spawn on boardwalks. Actions taken by this board restricted the drift fleet, removing the 3 best openings without financial consideration mandated by their own allocation criteria. The present board allocated fish to non-resident sport fishermen, taking them from resident commercial fishermen. The state constitution stipulates against allocating natural resources to non-residents and if this was gold or oil or timber such an allocation would not be tolerated.

This board circumvented the advisory committees ~~process~~, instituted a new committee process without the traditional public notice or comment period.

ColumbiaWards Cannery closed their doors in Kenai. Icicle Seafoods in Homer has chosen not to rebuild. Net loss 200-300 jobs, both companies stating the difficulty of trying to do business in a hostile regulatory environment.

Is this the purpose and function of the board of fish, to close businesses, bankrupt fishermen, allocate resources, redistribute jobs and dollars?

90% of the states total sport and commercial economic value is not represented by this board. There are 3 Cook Inlet sport fish advocates on the present board. Geographic and economic representation has never been worse.

Without armed guards, without hiding behind the gavel, come back to Soldotna and explain how the board justifies killing so many jobs on the Kenai Peninsula. I ^{urge} encourage you not to accompany Miller, Wapenham, and Coffey.

John M. Stanley
Nimilchik, AK

Fax 907-283-7205

May 03, 1999

Dick & Molly Musgrove
PO Box 3522
Kenai, Alaska 99611

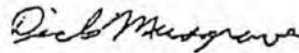
We oppose the reconfirmation of Mr. Coffee to Board of Fish.

He voted to increase the maximum escapement goal for the Kenai River with out any concern about the future survival of this magnificent system. As Fish & Game have shown over escapment of salmon year after year is detrimental to the future of this fishery. He must realize too many fish up this River just decreases the number of spawners that return. His interests seem to be about getting more fish in the river for sportsmen and guides immediate compensation, than the health of this system.

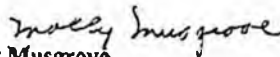
Also Mr. Coffee does not seem concerned about the jobs lost or the effect on the local economy.

For these reasons we are opposed to Mr. Coffee being reappointed to the Board of Fish. Please consider future board members who are concerned about the health and the environment of this River for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely yours



Dick Musgrove



Molly Musgrove

In my opinion the present Fish Board has shown total disregard for the health and well being of the Kenai River with no consideration to (and in fact encouraging) over escapment and habitat distruction.

I feel this board has a predetermined goal of killing the entire Cook Inlet drainage. Therefore I urge the legislature to not confirm:

Dan Coffee
Virgil Umphenour
Grant Miller

They have also shown total disregard for the economy of the entire Kenai Peninsula.



Steve Vanek
P.O. Box 103
Ninilchik, AK, 99639

Re - Confirmation of BOF Appointment.

Dear Legislators:

My name is Steve Vanek. I have been the secretary of the local advisory committee for more than 15 years. I have been a salmon drift fisherman for more than 30 years. I oppose the confirmation of Dan Coffey, Virgil Umphenour, and Grant Muller.

These men have had an agenda for Cook Inlet. Namely to allocate fish away from the commercial sector. We've met seven times in the last 4 years on Cook Inlet as they tried various ways to attack the commercial fishing industry. An agenda change request was made every year to take Cook Inlet out of cycle. These men passed everyone of these agenda change requests. That has ~~cost~~ ^{cost} us all a lot of time and money. Persons with an agenda do not belong on the Board of Fish.

Mr. Coffey has destroyed the public process and the advisory committee process, with his new Board committees. Public involvement through public testimony and the advisory

Steve Vanek

Committees is now just a bothersome formality. The real business is done in these committees, committees appointed by Mr. Cafe. Committees made up basically of lobbyists. Would you, the legislators, conduct States' business by calling all the lobbyists into a committee meeting and then try to reach consensus? Would this make your job easier? Would it take less time? Would it be fair to the public you serve? Our system of representative govt would have to change because now the public would need to elect those lobbyists in order to have any representation on those special committees. This committee process was shoved down our throats by this Board of Fish.

The management of Fish and Game belongs to the legislature in this State not to the Governor. You are asking the Board of Fish to do your business. The Governor appoints, but you confirm. This Governor had a plan for fisheries management in Cook Inlet and appointed these people to carry out his plan. But these people are supposed to do the legislature's business not the Governor's business. I suggest you look harder at these people. You are asked to confirm. Are they doing your business? I hope not. I hope you are not trying to destroy a valuable economic base in this State. Do not confirm these men!

Steve Vanek



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on BD OF FISHERIES CONFIRMATION, dated 5-3-99
bill # / subject

I LEND MY + OUR STAFFS, FULL SUPPORT
TO RECONFIRM, TO THE BOARD OF FISHERIES:

MR. DAN COFFEE

" VIRGIL UMPHENOUR

" GRANT MILLER

FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND UNDERSTANDING
OF A DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN THE COOK INLET
AREA.

Signed: Herman E. Fandel
Testifier

OUR THREE ALASKA BUSINESSES
Representing (Optional)

702 LAWTON DRIVE, KENAI AK 99621
Address

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE RESOURCES
committee name
 committee on FISHERIES, dated 5/3/99
bill # / subject

I HAVE PROVIDED ALL OF YOU FOLKS A REPORT PREPARED BY ME. THIS REPORT WAS TITLED "UNITED TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF OUR LAND."

PLEASE UTILIZE THE REPORT AS MY WRITTEN COMMENTS WHY I AM OPPOSED TO CONFIRMATION OF THE THREE FISH BOARD MEMBERS THAT ARE UP FOR RECONFIRMATION.

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier
COMMERCIAL FISHING FAMILIES
Representing (Optional)
Box 318, CLAM GULCH, ALASKA 99568
Address
907-567-3419 - 907-262-9164
Phone number

Confirm:

Bd. of

Fisher.

3/29/00

RESUME'

DANIEL TAYLOR SEAMOUNT Jr.

Home Address

23747 Hilltop Dr.
Chugiak, AK 99567
WK: 279-1433

OCCUPATIONAL GOAL: Geologist

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Union Oil Co. of Ca., 2/8/93 to present
P.O. Box 196247, Anchorage, AK 99519-6247

Title: Senior Advising Geologist

Duties: For last year have worked regional exploration and specific prospects in Cook Inlet. Prospect areas have included North Middle Ground Shoal, Sunfish, Redoubt Shoal, coal bed methane, South Cook Inlet, Susitna Basin and west side. Utilized Atlas's WDS well log system and Landmark's Stratworks, Petroworks, and Seisworks packages. For 3 1/2 years prior, was project manager and Team leader of a group which exploited development, exploration, and business opportunities in Cook Inlet and Alaska North Slope. Heavily involved in planning and budgeting wells, forming partnerships, facilities construction & re-mediation, and safety and environmental projects. Made numerous written and oral presentations to management and partners to update them on project progress and presented to state agencies (DNR & AOGCC) to form units, drilling PA's, and Plan of Operations. Provided geological input on well bore disposal of platform effluent. Presently working on plan of operations for Matanuska Valley Coal Bed Methane project. Also worked on Kuparuk and Endicott Fields on North Slope.

Union Oil Co. of Ca., 5/16/88 to 2/8/93
3300 N. Butler, Farmington, NM 87401
P.O. Box 2620, Casper, WY 82602-2620

Titles: District Development Geologist: 8/89 to present
Geologist: 5/88 to 8/89

Duties: Supervised and worked development and exploration geology of UNOCAL operated properties in the San Juan, Paradox, and Piceance Basins. Exploited tight sandstone reservoirs (27 wells), coal seam gas (57 wells), and conventional sandstone and carbonate oil and gas reservoirs. Horizontal, deviated, and vertical well bores were utilized. Additional work included managing geological contractors, progress reporting of drilling programs and field mapping. Also assisted in exploration projects in the Green River & L-J Basins. Presented San Juan Dakota reservoir characterization results to NM State O&G Comm. in approval process of tight gas sands designation. Worked with Utah O&G Comm. In forming Lisbon Field Unit.

Presented to numerous potential partners and was on a team which sold Unocal's alternative fuel tax credit to outside investors.

Marathon Oil Co., 7/13/81 to 5/16/88
P.O. Box 120, Casper, WY 82602

Titles: Staff Geologist: 1986 to 1988
Project Supervisor: 1984 to 1986
Geologist: 1981 to 1984

Duties: Oil and gas prospecting in the D-J Basin (one Paleozoic discovery), the Green River Basin (assisted in two Moxa Arch Frontier and Dakota gas discoveries and one sub-economic oil well), the Las Animas Arch (a number of Morrow Prospects on hold), and the central Kansas uplift (Pennsylvanian basal ss and Lansing-Kansas City Fm.). Work included regional & local mapping of structures, thickness', and facies of Rocky Mountain petroleum reservoirs and presentation of prospects to management. Was expert witness in Nebraska lawsuit between Marathon and KN Energy.

Chevron U.S.A. Inc., 8/18/73 to 1/3/79

2525 N. Chester, Oildale, CA 93308 (10/75 to 1/79)
575 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94105 (8/73 to 10/75)

Titles: *Geologic Assistant: 1975-1979*

Computer Analyst : 1973-1975

Duties: *Utilized geologic and geophysical computer programs. Performed well site work and prospect generation in California onshore and offshore.*

Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, 1/3/79 to 7/13/81

University of Ca, Earth Science Dept. Riverside, CA 92521

Title: *Research Associate (half time while finishing MS)*

Duties: *Assisted research scientists in geothermal, seismic, and earthquake studies. Also, supervised the drilling of heat flow test holes.*

EDUCATION:

M.S. - Geology, 6/81, University of CA, Riverside, CA.

Emphasis on geothermal development and exploration. Thesis titled, " Well Log Study of the Hydrothermally Altered Sediments of Cerro Prieto Geothermal Field, Baja California, Mexico".

B.S. - Geology, 5/73, University of CA, Riverside

INTERESTS

Backpacking

Fishing

Hiking

Hunting

Skiing

Wild Life Viewing

RESUME

Marlene A. Johnson
9505 Antler Way

Juneau, Alaska 99801

NAME: Marlene A. Greenewald Johnson
POB: Hoonah, Alaska

PERSONAL INFORMATION: Married to Clifford Leo Johnson
Children: 3 sons and 2 daughters (grown)
13 grandchildren

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Dec. 16, 1996 - present:
State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission, Commissioner. .

Jan. 1, 1995 - Dec. 1, 1996:
Manager of Shareholder Services for Huna Totem Corporation and coordinator of Huna Heritage Foundation.

1992 - 1995:
Shareholder Service Coordinator for Huna Totem Corporation, on a part time basis and coordinated the activities of Huna Heritage Foundation on a part time basis also.

1982 - 1992:
Chairman of Sealaska Corporation, full time, an Alaska Native regional corporation formed under Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. Primarily a natural resource and investment company.

1969 - 1982:
Was part owner and Vice President of a regional air taxi, acted as the sales and personnel manager; and managed the Hoonah Station as well as the other outpost agents. Employed 50 people.

1961 - 1968:
Accountant for Coastal Glacier Seafood's, Hoonah Alaska, a retail store and seafood processing plant as well as the agent for the regional airline, Alaska Coastal-Ellis Air.

CIVIC AND OTHER ACTIVITIES:

1998 - Appointed by the Governor to serve on the Rural Governance & Empowerment Commission.

1992 - Present:

Board of Trustee of Huna Heritage Foundation, a non-profit whose mission is to preserve the culture of the Huna people.

1992 - Present:

Serves on the University of Alaska School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences advisory council.

1985 - Present:

Serves on the Southeast Alaska Selective Service Board, is the past Chairman.

1992 - Present:

National Advisory Committee member to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on the Healthy Nations Program and The Improving the Health of American Indians.

1994 - Present:

Serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Juneau Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

1990 - Present:

Serves as a Trustee on the Sealaska Heritage Foundation that provides scholarships and preserves and records southeast Alaska native's culture.

1971 - 1995:

Served on the Board of Directors of Sealaska Corporation, was one of the original incorporators of Sealaska. Represented the Corporation on several other Boards of Directors such as United Bank Alaska, Ocean Beauty Seafoods and AFN.

1972 - 1992:

Served on the Board of Directors of Huna Totem Corporation, the Village Corporation for the people of Hoonah. Primarily a timber and investment company.

1961 - 1980:

Served as a Vice President on the Tlingit and Haida Central Council, Executive Committee, the regional tribal governing body.

1964 - 1985:

Served on Rural Cap Board of Directors; as its President for 8 years, during which time helped form Alaska Federation of Natives and lobbied for the passage of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and later ANILCA.

1961 - 1986:

Served as an elected member to the Hoonah School Board, was the President for 15 years.

1967-1985:

Served on Hoonah Indian Association (IRA Council) Board of Directors and assisted them in writing grant applications and implementing programs.

1960-1980:

Served on the Hoonah Tlingit and Haida Community Council, was the secretary/treasurer for several years and established the Hoonah Cable TV for them.

OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Served on a number of other Boards and Commissions for the community and State. Some of the are:

State of Alaska Health Systems Agency
State of Alaska Governor's Interim Commission on Children and Youth
The Governors Review Commission on Native Services
The Governors Task force on Tort Reform
The State Personnel Board
The State Public Employees Retirement Board
The Alaska Labor Relations Agency
The Alaska Railroad Labor Relations Agency
The State Reapportionment Board
The Governor's Transition Team
The Juneau Convention & Visitors Bureau, first Board of Directors
The University of Alaska Presidential Search Committee
The University of Alaska Foundation
The Alaska Committee

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Was born in Hoonah, Alaska to Robert and Elsie Greenewald. Was one of 14 children. Married to Clifford L. Johnson, who is retired from Alascom, a communications company. Lives in Juneau and also retains a residence in Hoonah.

Attended school in Hoonah and Juneau public school systems. Graduated from Juneau High School. Attended vocational training under the BIA in accounting and personnel management. Took training from University of Oregon and Washington State University in management, financial management and personnel. Completed the Administrative Law: Fair Hearing Course and Logic and Opinion Writing at the National Judicial College, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

AWARDS:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1991,1990,1989 | nominated as one of Alaska's 10 outstanding women. |
| 1989 | Alaska Legislature commendation for public service. |
| 1985-1991 | Outstanding Women of America award |
| 1986 | AASA Mackinnon Education Excellence & Human Recognition Award for High Standards & Ideals in Education. |
| 1985 | American Indian Opportunity - Recognition for Outstanding Service. |
| 1983-1989 | Who's Who in America |
| 1987-1995 | Who's Who in American Business |
| 1990-1994 | Benton's Who's Who International |
| 1993 | RWJ Foundation Distinguished Service Award |
| 1995 | Alaska Federation of Natives Citizen of the Year Award. |

ROBERT E. DERSHAM

OBJECTIVE

Update of previous resume

EXPERIENCE

1997 to Present - Dersham's Outlook Lodge Anchor Point Alaska
Co Owner and operator

1997 to Present - Alaska State Board of Fisheries State of Alaska
Board member

- Chairman: BOF-NPFMC Joint Protocol Committee
 - Chairman: North Gulf of Alaska Chinook Task Force Committee
 - Chairman: Halibut LAMP Task Force Committee
 - Chairman: Habitat Committee
 - Chairman: Numerous sub committees at BOF regulatory meetings
 - Attended all BOF meetings since appointment
-

Robert E. (Ed) Dersham - Resume

P.O. Box 555

Anchor Point, AK 99556

Objective

To be considered for an appointment to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries

I am applying to be considered for appointment to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries. I do this with full knowledge of the magnitude of the commitment, and weight of the responsibility involved in service on the board. I have lived in Alaska for 20 years and been actively involved in fisheries issues for over 10 years. In every issue I've become involved with I've worked to gather as much knowledge as possible about the issue. I have then worked to support solutions that were fair to all user groups while keeping the biological health of the resource as the top priority.

My business and my life are closely tied to the saltwater charter fishing industry. I am committed to helping find workable resolutions to allocation issues using the best available biological information and input from all user groups.

If chosen, I would serve to the best of my ability. My primary goal would be to help achieve the fairest possible allocation decisions based on a thorough working knowledge of the issues to come before the board.

Highlights of Qualifications

- Member of the Anchor River Steelhead Task Force, 1990
- President of the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association 1990-1993
- Member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Halibut Charter working group 1993-1994
- President of the Anchor Point Charter Association 1993-1997
- On the board of directors of the Alaska Sport Fishing Industry Association 1994-1997

Professional Experience

Dersham's Outlook Lodge, Anchor Point, AK 1985-Present
Owner and senior fishing guide for salmon and halibut

Along with my wife Karan, own and operate a complete package fishing lodge on Cook Inlet.

Achievements

- Built a successful business from the ground up that currently has 58% repeat customer and word of mouth referral clientele
- Established as a top guide for salmon and halibut on the east side of Cook Inlet and earned the respect of the other guides in the area

Peninsula Communications, Inc. Homer, AK 1988-1992*Broadcaster*

Wrote and broadcast a daily sport fishing report including tips, antidotes, and essays on the philosophical aspect of fishing. These reports were carried on three radio stations servicing the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island

U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 1971-1985*Special Agent- Drug Enforcement Administration**Retired*

Worked as a criminal investigator for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Supervised the development of cases against individuals who had violated federal narcotics laws. Worked undercover extensively. Testified extensively in both federal and state court. Conducted liaison with State and federal officers through task force operations in California and Alaska.

Achievements

- Received a superior performance award for undercover work done against heroin traffickers in the southern California and Baja Mexico areas.

Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Cottage Grove, OR 1968-1971*Laborer*

Worked as a laborer in every facet of wood products operation.

Education & Licenses

Bachelors of Business Administration - University of Oregon, 1970
Operator of uninspected passenger vessel license- U.S. Coast Guard, 1989-present

Personal History

Born: April 20, 1948 - Eugene OR
Wife: Karan Dersham
Sons: David (30), Bert (23)

Other Organizations and Clubs

- Member - Board of Directors, Kenai Peninsula Chapter Crime stoppers Int.
- Member - Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council
- Member - The Alaskan Club
- Member - The National Federation of Independent Business
- Member - The National Rifle Association

References

- Kevin DeLaney, Director Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Sport fish Division
- Nick Dudlak, Area Fisheries Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Bob Ward, Homer Charter Association, Homer, AK

Resume

Larry J. Engel
P.O. Box 197
Palmer, Alaska 99645
(907) 745-4132

EDUCATION: Graduated Highschool 1956; Served U.S. Navy,
July 1956 - Sept. 1959, Honorable Discharge;
Graduated University of Washington, March 1964,
B.S. in Fisheries

WORK HISTORY: Seasonal technician and biologist with the Alaska
Department of Fish and Game, 1960 - June, 1964.

Full-time biologist with Alaska Department of
Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 1964 to
August 31, 1992.

REFERENCES: R. Russell Redick, former ADF&G supervisor,
Anchorage; Telephone: (907) 522-2506

Kevin Delaney, supervisor, currently with ADF&G,
Anchorage; Telephone: (907) 344-0541

Jack Willis, President, Trout Unlimited,
Wasilla; Telephone: (907) 746-1666

Phil Cutler, President, Alaska Sport Fishing
Association, Anchorage; Telephone: (907) 243-4667



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 29, 2000

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

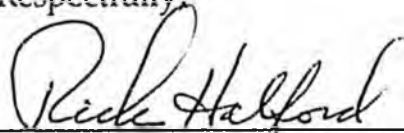
Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

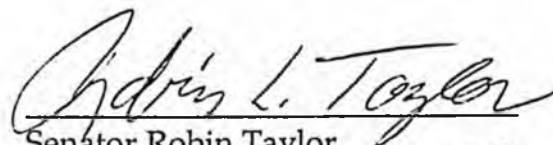
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:

Robert "Ed" Dersham - Anchor Point

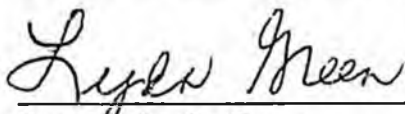
Respectfully,



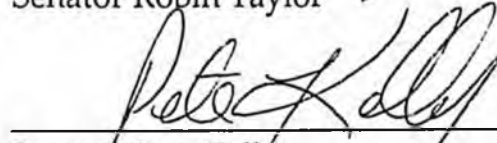
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman



Senator Robin Taylor

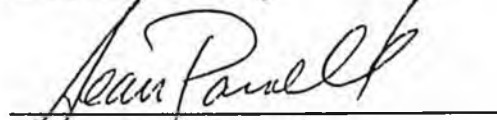


Senator Lyda Green



Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Jerry Mackie



Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
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President of the Senate
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Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

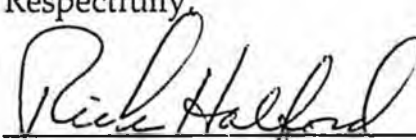
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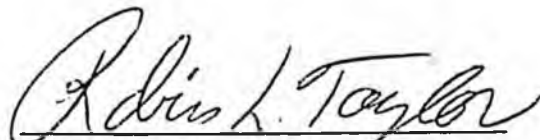
ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES:

Larry J. Engel - Palmer

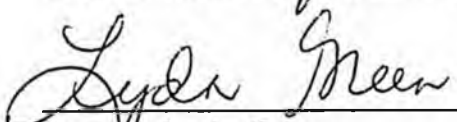
Respectfully,



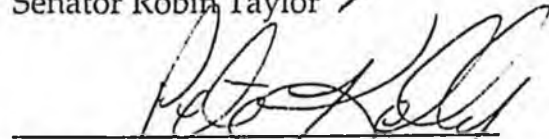
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman



Senator Robin Taylor

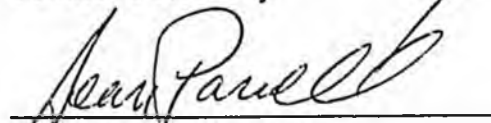


Senator Lyda Green

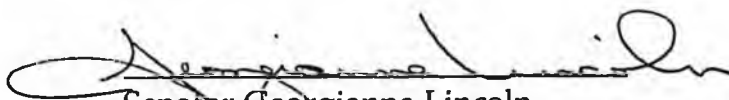


Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Jerry Mackie



Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

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SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Senator Georgianna Lincoln

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President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

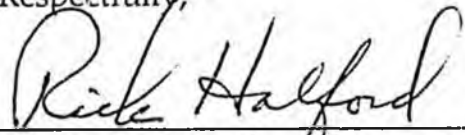
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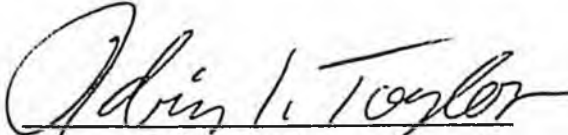
ALASKA COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENTRY COMMISSION:

Marlene Johnson - Juneau

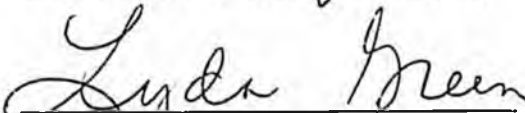
Respectfully,



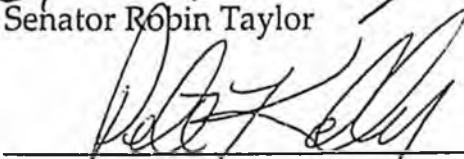
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman



Senator Robin Taylor

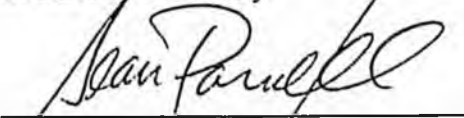


Senator Lyda Green

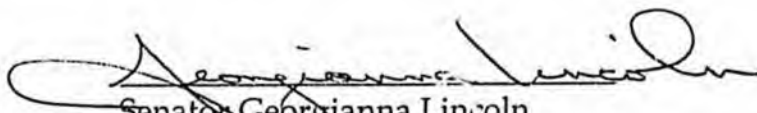


Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Jerry Mackie



Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
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Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 29, 2000

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Daniel T. Seamount - Chugiak

Respectfully

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Robin Taylor

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Sean Parnell

Senator Georgianna Lincoln

Confirm:

Bd. of

Game

3/24/99



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 24, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

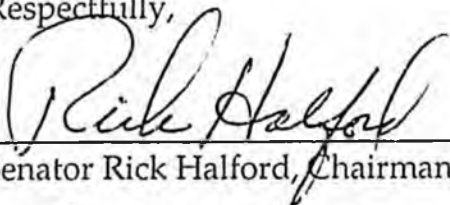
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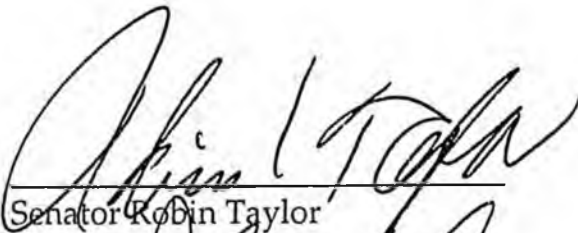
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:

Greg Streveler - Gustavus

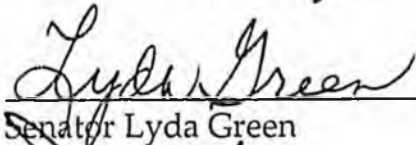
Respectfully,



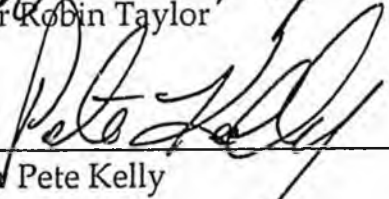
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman



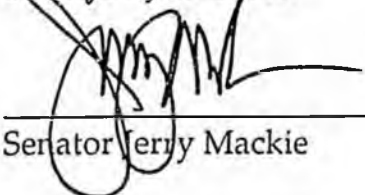
Senator Robin Taylor



Senator Lyda Green

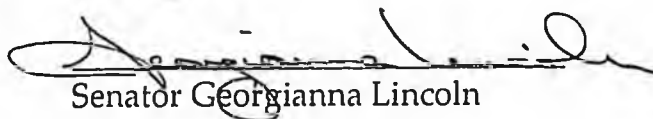


Senator Pete Kelly



Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
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Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 24, 1999

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Madam President,

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:

Greg Roczicka - Bethel

Respectfully,

Senator Rick Halford, Chairman

Senator Lyda Green

Senator Jerry Mackie

Senator Robin Taylor

Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Sean Parnell

Senator Georgianna Lincoln



Official Business

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Chairman: Senator Rick Halford
Vice Chair: Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Sean Parnell
Senator Georgianna Lincoln

March 24, 1999

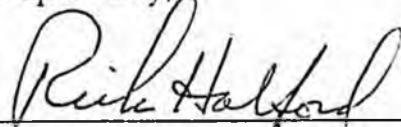
The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Madam President,

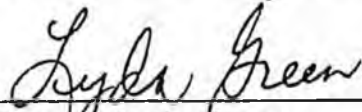
In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following with regard to confirmation of the Governor's appointment:

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME:
Mike Fleagle - McGrath

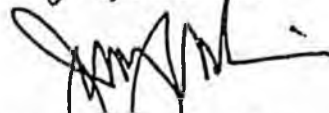
Respectfully,



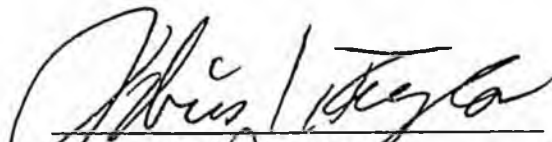
Senator Rick Halford, Chairman



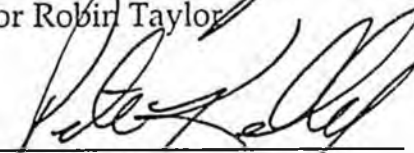
Senator Lyda Green



Senator Jerry Mackie




Senator Robin Taylor



Senator Pete Kelly

Senator Sean Parnell



Senator Georgianna Lincoln



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature
Senate
Office of the Secretary

STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3701
FAX: 465-2832

February 23, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Halford, Chair
Resources Committee

FROM: Nancy Quinto ^W
Secretary of the Senate

SUBJECT: Governor's Confirmations

Pursuant to AS 39.05.080, President Pearce has referred the following names for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

Board of Game

Greg Roczicka, Bethel
Appointed: 02/23/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

Mike Fleagle - McGrath
Appointed: 10/20/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

Greg Streveler - Gustavus
Appointed: 10/20/96 Reappointed: 02/19/99 Expires: 01/31/02

NQ/kw
Resumes attached

RESUME'

GREG ROCZICKA
PO BOX 513, BETHEL, AK. 99559
P/FAX (907)-543-2903

WORK HISTORY

1997-Present: Kuskokwim 300 Race Committee, PO Box 300, Bethel, AK. 99559, Ph. 543-3300, and self.
Part-time sales and related fund raising activities for non-profit organization sponsoring annual sled dog race from Bethel to Aniak and back. Gather/cut/deliver firewood, general handyman/construction projects and housekeeping.

1988-97: Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) Inc.
PO Box 219, Bethel, AK. 99559; P/Fax (907) 543-3521/3596
(1988-90, Resource Dept. dba Nunam Kitlutsisti, Protectors of the Land Inc.)

Worked within various capacities/titles depending on need and availability, which have included: Resource Specialist, Rights Protection Assistant, Coastal Zone Mgmt. Coordinator (CZM), and Director of Natural Resource Dept. Primary activities involved: serving as a liaison between tribal, state and federal governments; review, response and generation of technical/regulatory documents; identification and solicitation of project funding sources, including fiscal oversight; overall focus to perpetuate integrity of renewable resources and subsistence way of life.

1975-95: Intermittent crewman in seasonal commercial fishing operations.

1987-88: Lower Kuskokwim School District and Personal Projects
Worked as seasonal maintenance mechanic and substitute teacher while building house for family in Kwethluk, AK.

1980-87: City of Bethel, Alaska

1984-87, Coastal Zone Mgmt. Planner implementing functional and technical aspects of City's CZM program; coordination and hands-on site supervision of various community enhancement projects.

1983-84, Coordinated Alcohol Safety Action Program, maintaining networking system between Courts, treatment agencies, and regional/village counseling programs; diagnostic assessments, placement and follow-up of clientele; generation of alcohol related crime statistics; fiscal oversight.

1980-83, Supervisor of 24-hour detoxification facility; maintained staff of 15 in emergency care of up to 5,000 clients annually; provide Emergency Medical Service training to staff; generate agency statistics; fiscal oversight.

1977-79: Varied employers. Mixture of temporary construction jobs, commercial fishing, cab driving, etc. while attending UAF-Kuskokwim community college in Bethel.

1976: Six months providing food, shelter, etc. for self and dog, 70 river miles from nearest community.

1975-76: Northern Commercial Co., Bethel, AK.

Perform general labor/clerical duties, maintaining daily business at bulk fuel storage, sales and delivery facility.

1974-75: Bethel Development Corporation

Shift maintenance for front office operations of 30 room hotel.

1973-74: Bethel Social Services

Teen Center Manager, working after school and weekends with community services director implementing City's teen recreation program, including recruitment and supervision of 6-10 teen employees.

1971-73: Yellow and Rabbit Cab Co's.

Work rotating dispatch shifts after school and weekends.

Greg Roczicka resume' cont'd

EDUCATION

- 1977-79 University of Alaska, Fairbanks/Kuskokwim Community College, Bethel, AK
60+ credit hours majoring in Land/Resource Management. (LRM program discontinued at KuCC prior to fulfillment of degree requirements.)
1970-74 Bethel Regional High School, Bethel, AK
1964-69 Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota
1963-64 Wanblee Elementary, Wanblee, South Dakota
1962-63 Georgetown Elementary, Georgetown, Minnesota

SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS

- 1/81 State of Alaska Certification: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) I.
4/81 Communications Skills Training
5/81 Substance Abuse Counseling I and Personnel Management Training
10/81 American Red Cross Instructors Certification for CPR and Basic First Aid
6/82 Increasing Supervisory Skills and Short Term Client Counseling
9/82 Management Information Systems
10/82 EMT Recertification/Refresher Course
11/82 Practical Management of Assaultive Clients
5/83 Operations of IBM System 34
5/84 Developing Capable Young People
8/85 Applications of Lotus 1,2,3.
3/90 Grant Writing Techniques
2/91 Managing Multiple Demands

COMMUNITY/AFFILIATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

- 1980-87 Bethel Ambulance Service Volunteer
1985-Present Kuskokwim 300 Sled Dog Race Committee Volunteer
1988-90 Bethel City Planning Commission
1989-91 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group
1990-92 Lower Kuskokwim Fish & Game Advisory Committee (Bethel Representative)
1991-92 Western Regional Fish & Game Advisory Council Secretary
1992-93 United States/Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty Negotiations Delegate (Governor's appt.)
1993-96 Quilinguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Cooperative Management Working Group
1993-97 Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area Working Group
1994-96 Lower Yukon Moose Management Committee
1996-Present Alaska State Board of Game Member (Governor's appt.)

References available upon request.

R E S U M E

Michael R. Fleagle
P.O. Box 33
McGrath, Alaska 99627

EDUCATION:

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grade 1-8 | Manley State Operated School | Manley Hot Springs, Alaska |
| Grade 9-11 | Monroe High School | Fairbanks, Alaska |
| Grade 12 | West Valley High School | Fairbanks, Alaska |

VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

Automotive Mechanics, Hutchison Career Center, Fairbanks, 1974, 3/4 Credit
Auto and Diesel Mechanics, Teamster's Training Trust, Anchorage, 1977 16 weeks, Graduated.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| McGrath Christian Fellowship Board, Board member | 1984-1986 |
| Bean Ridge Corporation Board, Vice-president | 1983-1985, 1993-Present |
| McGrath City Council, Council member | 1985-1987 |
| McGrath Advisory School Board, Chairman | 1993-1996 |
| Kuskokwim Public Broadcasting Corporation, Vice-president | 1993-1996 |
| McGrath Native Village Council, 2nd Chief | 1995-Present |
| Doyon, Limited Board, Board member | 1996-Present |

WORK EXPERIENCE:

I started in the workforce in 1977 on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as a Teamster swamper and tire changer in Prudhoe until RIF in October 1977.

My work experience is rather diverse, having spent most of 2 years in Barrow as a light duty and a heavy duty mechanic between 1979 and 1982. I worked as a heavy equipment operator for the City of Fairbanks in the summer of 1982, and when laid off at season's end, returned to McGrath.

Since returning, I've worked for McGrath Light and Power as a power plant operator, Alaska Construction and Mining as a mechanic/welder/operator at Moore Creek Mine, self employed as a mechanic, City of McGrath as a water plant operator and equipment operator, Rockford Construction as a welder and operator. In April of 1985, I went to work seasonally for the State Division of Forestry as a maintenance worker, and spent some time on fire assignments, including Lower 48. In the winters, I would trap, do mechanics work, building maintenance, plumbing and heating, etc. September, 1989 brought me to my present occupation, and that is a heavy equipment mechanic/operator for the State Department of Transportation. I travel to 5 other communities in my duties to assist in their airport operations.

OTHER INTERESTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Private pilot and aircraft owner since 1993.

Lifelong hunter and trapper.

Metal detecting and sluicing gold mining tailings.

Boating on the Kuskokwim River.

Salmon fishing and smoking.

Built our own 26'x32' 2-story log home on a family homestead, including harvesting and milling logs.

Alaska Federation of Natives Parents of the Year award, 1992.

GREGORY P. STREVELER
Icy Strait Environmental Services
P.O. Box 94
Gustavus, Alaska 99826

RESUME'

Vital Statistics

- Male, 57 years of age.
- Thirty year resident of Gustavus, Alaska.
- Married to Judith T. Brakel
- Five children/stepchildren

Education

- B.S., University of Wisconsin. Biology. 1963.
- M.S., University of Wisconsin. Ecology. 1966.
- U.S. Park Ranger training, Albright Academy. 1967.
- Two quarters additional ecological training, U. Washington. 1977 & 1979.

Employment History

- Member, zoological expeditions to Aleutian and Kodiak Islands, summers 1962, 64.
- Assistant on study of ground squirrel ecology, Cape Thompson, AK, summer 1965.
- Asst. to Herring/shellfish Biologist, ADF&G, Petersburg, AK, 1966-67.
- Park Ranger, Glacier Bay National Park, 1967-73.
- Research Biologist, Glacier Bay National Park, 1973-79.
- Wilderness Guide, Alaska Discovery, Inc., Juneau, summers 1980-87.
- Teacher, for Univ. of AK Southeast and Alaska Discovery Inc., summer field course "The Natural History of Glacier Bay", 1981-89.
- Contractor, with Gulf Oceanic Society, to ADF&G, on wildlife survey of Gustavus beaches & wetlands, 1983.
- Teacher, for Gustavus School, science and math, winters 1982-86.
- Gardener, Gustavus Inn, summers 1980-86.
- Contractor, with Environaid, inc., on Hydrology study of Gustavus, for Community of Gustavus, 1985-87.
- Planner & Research Facilitator, Glacier Bay National Park, 1987-89.
- Legislative Aide, for Representative Peter Goll, winter 1990.
- Contractor, to National Audubon Society, as vertebrate expert on expedition to Russian Arctic, summer 1991.
- Contractor, to National Audubon Society, to prepare education materials on natural history of Beringia, 1991-92.
- Contractor, to U.S. Forest Service, on survey of mammals of the Homeshore area, Juneau RD. 1991-92.
- Teacher, for U. Vermont, graduate field course on Natural History of Glacier Bay, summers 1984-1994.
- Teacher, for Discovery Foundation, Environmental Education training for teachers, winters 1989-present.
- Teacher, University of Alaska, SE. June 1990-1996, course on the Natural history of SE Alaska.
- Contractor, to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, to assemble info. on Southeast Alaskan caves, 1993.
- Contractor, to the City & Borough of Juneau, to characterize the mammal fauna of city watersheds, 1993.
- Contractor, to Gustavus Electric Co., to provide an environmental evaluation of the Falls Creek proposed hydro site, 1993-present.
- Teacher of ecotourism guides and Park employees, Haines and Skagway areas, spring 1994-present.
- Contractor, for Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 1994, to evaluate potentials for impacts of park management actions, and to prepare laypersons' summaries of recent USFS and USGS technical reports.
- Contractor, to University of Alaska American Russian Center, March 1995, to co-instruct an ecotoursim workshop for Russian citizens.
- Teacher, Sheldon Jackson College Elderhostel, 1993 - present.
- Contractor, to Glacier Bay National Park,
 - May-July 1995, to participate in geological investigations accompanying an archaeological survey of Icy Strait.
 - January - March, 1996, to summarize glacial history for selected park watersheds

- December, 1998 – February, 1999, provide draft introduction to Resource management Plan.
- Contractor, to the USNPS Denver Service Center, July-December 1995, to provide an environmental survey of portions of the Gustavus, Bartlett Cove and Indian Point areas.
- Contractor, to Ch2M Hill, Inc., November 1995 - April 1996, to provide ecological background on birds and mammals for a supplemental EIS on proposed AJ mine, Juneau.
- Member, State Board of Game, October 1997 - present.
- Contractor to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, November 1997 - April 1998, to advise on issues related to Glacier Bay commercial fishing.
- Contractor to Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, April 1998 - Present, to characterize the tourism industry in SE Alaska and describe its effects on local people & resources.
- Contractor of Gustavus Electric, May 1998 - present, coordinate environmental studies of proposed hydro site near Gustavus, Alaska.
- Contractor to Glacier Gardens, Inc., October 1998 – present, to characterize mammal and bird usage of lands proposed for road development.

Lawmakers rip Keeler

Panels shun Knowles' Game Board appointee

By ELIZABETH MANNING
Daily News reporter

The Legislature's resources committees voted unanimously Monday to recommend against confirming wildlife photographer Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game.

Gov. Tony Knowles named Keeler to the board last month. Committee members, some openly antagonistic, grilled Keeler over his views about wildlife management and particularly about wolves and wolf control.



Keeler, an employee of the U.S. Forest Service and a wildlife photographer, introduced himself as a lifelong hunter. He said that as a board member, he would try to forge public consensus on wolf control while also promoting wildlife viewing.

Sen. Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell, challenged Keeler to state where the constitution says

See Back Page, GAME BOARD

Manage state's wildlife for Alaskans, Game Board told

The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS — Wolf control dominated testimony at Alaska Game Board hearings here over the weekend.

Joel Bennett, executive director of the environmental group Defenders of Wildlife, told the panel Sunday that there's something about shooting animals from airplanes that's distasteful to the public.

"That may be where most of your resistance is coming from," Bennett said, referring to Gov. Tony Knowles' refusal to allow wolf control programs already approved by the Game Board around McGrath and in the Nelchina Basin.

"The public will look the other way on sterilization or bear relocation, but people are not comfortable with shooting them out of airplanes," said Bennett, a wildlife photographer, hunter and former Game Board member.

Sunday's testimony was basically a rerun of the first two days', with more

than 30 people testifying before the panel about a variety of hunting and trapping issues. But once again, wolves dominated the discussion.

People in favor of killing wolves to boost struggling moose and caribou populations argued that it is the state's responsibility to manage Alaska's wildlife resources for hunters and trappers and not tourists.

People opposed to killing wolves want to set up a special protection area around Denali National Park and Preserve. They contend that the state must consider all user groups when managing wildlife.

Tok hunter and trapper Glenn DeSpain urged the board Sunday to manage Alaska's game for residents, not visitors.

"I've been in Alaska 59 years, and I have yet to find a tourist who has come up to me and asked where they can see a wolf," DeSpain said. "They may want

to see wolves, but that's not the main reason they come up here."

Trapper Lynn Keough of the South-central chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association found it ironic that preservationists arguing for a protective buffer zone for wolves around Denali Park say it is needed because the wolves have become "habituated" from their contact with humans.

"We're opposed to any activity that habituates wildlife to humans and providing protection beyond what the National Park Service is providing," Keough said. "We favor keeping Alaska's wildlife wild."

Ed Gelvin of Central told the Game Board that wolves have taken a large chunk out of the moose population in the mining country 120 miles north of Fairbanks. He said the decline began when wolf bounties were removed and aerial hunting was banned.

March 6, 2000

Comments on the appointment of Leo Keeler to the Alaska Board of Game by Douglas Donegan.

Alaska faces a crossroads in the management of its game resources. There are seemingly enormous divides between those who wish to view wildlife and those who harvest game for food and recreation.

Unfortunately, the Board of Game has become increasingly polarized with less and less attention being paid to the legitimate concerns of Alaskans who enjoy wildlife viewing. As a consequence, the Board has made some ludicrous decisions. A good example is the proposed Anchorage moose hunt in Chugach Park which was opposed by the Park, the Park Advisory Board, public testimony, and a neighborhood organization. The only people who spoke in favor of a hunt were the hunting groups. Despite the opposition, the Board decided to ignore the comments and concerns of the park neighbors and decided in favor of a hunt.

This type of biased decision making fuels a lack of confidence and trust in the Board's decisions and contributes to a growing sense of mistrust of the present board.

It's time the Board of Game began to act like a group of Alaskans instead of some exclusive club. At the moment the Board seems to only represent those who want to hunt at the expense of all other considerations. The legislature has been an active player in reinforcing the board's polarity. I think it is time for a small change, one member of the board that does not only represent the hunting interests.

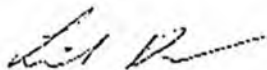
Leo Keeler may not reflect your personal views on wildlife management. I believe that your role in the confirmation process should be to determine if he is qualified to serve on the board, if he has the necessary background and experience and skills. He should not be denied a seat because he does not fit the cookie cutter mold of the other Board members.

If we are ever going to resolve some of our game management issues such as predator control programs, it will require that people with different values and viewpoints agree to work together and make some concessions. I think the appointment of Leo Keeler would be an excellent step in beginning to re-establish the credibility of the Board of Game.

Douglas Donegan
12300 Ginami Steet
Anchorage, Alaska 99516



It's time to restore some balance to the Board of Game. Because they are so polarized and have lost the confidence of many Alaskans, Leo Kccler's appointment would go a long way in restoring some credibility to the Alaska Board of Game.



Linda Donegan
12300 Ginami Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

Subject: BOG Candidate Leo Keeler

Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 15:30:47 -0900

From: "bhopson" <bhopson_village@co.north-slope.ak.us>

To: <Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford,

I am a subsistence user within the State of Alaska and I am not in favor of St. of Alaska Board of Game candidate Leo Keeler. I don't see why Alaska has to be further locked up from hunting and trapping around Denali Park. Why don't politicians see this abuse of locking up Millions of acres of land for National Parks. Alaska has enough lands for seeing its beauty including its wildlife. As it is now a person can practically see a wolf anywhere in Alaskan wilderness.

I believe the new BOG candidate should be a person that is a user of fish and game since this board addresses issues of this nature for the residents of Alaska.

Subject:

Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 15:42:09 -0900

From: " Pat & Arleta OConnor" <oconnor@mtaonline.net>

To: <Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford,

We oppose the appointment of Leo Keeler to the game board because of his past history. He opposes hunting and trapping.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Arleta O'Connor

PO Box 3687

Palmer, AK 99645

Subject:

Pass 3 Daycare Funding

Date:

Mon, 6 Mar 2000 18:58:46 -0900

From:

"Donna Gannon" <dlgannon@hotmail.com>

To:

<Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Senator Halford:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent decision to cancel Pass 3 funding for daycare assistance scheduled to take place March 31. This decision will not only have a significant effect on my family but on the lives of many families in the State of Alaska. It is a decision that is not only going to cause a great deal of frustration for those of us affected by it, but it will cause extreme financial hardship as well.

As a single mother of two children, I have depended on daycare assistance for some years now to enable me to leave my home to work. After my divorce, I depended on this assistance to allow me to attend classes and, after graduation, daycare assistance allowed me to go to work while still affording quality care for my children. The daycare assistance I have been receiving has played an enormous role in allowing me to move as far ahead as I have and I am still depending on this assistance to make ends meet. This is a situation common to many parents that I know. I feel frustrated and angered to think that all of the hard work and determination it took for us to get where we are today could possibly result in some of us being forced back home and onto the welfare system when we cannot afford to pay our daycare bills! What will this accomplish? I am sure this was not the intent behind cutting this assistance, but unfortunately, it is our reality. This is not only going to be hard on those of us trying to make a monthly daycare payment that is double or more what we would normally pay, but it is going to have an adverse effect on daycare providers as well. I can imagine what they stand to lose when parents cannot pay their full monthly bills or are forced to remove their children from a facility because of this. Lower enrollment may also mean fewer care providers will be needed at daycare facilities, which would mean cutting jobs. Just how is the local economy going to benefit from this? This is going to cause difficult lifestyle changes for many of us and financial struggles which I am sure we will not all be able to overcome.

I have hoped in the future to find myself able to make my daycare payments without assistance, but I fear this is not that time. Over

the years, I have earned raises at work and have gone from receiving 97% coverage to 50% coverage, and this has worked out well; however, to go from 50% coverage to nothing at all at the drop of a hat is shocking, frightening, and could be financially devastating.

I am hoping you will understand the incredible impact this is going to have on us and come to our aid. We depend on this assistance to keep our children in quality daycare facilities so that we can work. So many of us have worked so hard to come to where we are today, and I do not want to see anyone lose what they have earned because of this unfortunate situation. Please consider the hardship and distress this is going to cause to so many and what may be done to resolve it.

Sincerely,

Donna L Gannon

Working Single Mother

GANNON, DONNA L
PO BOX 870352
WASILLA AK 99687
District: 26-038 Party: U Sex: F

Subject: BOG appointment

Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 20:01:40 -0900

From: Monica ANHSC <aksealmr@ptialaska.net>

Organization: ANHSC

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford,

I am writing in opposition of Leo Keeler's appointment to the Board of Game. For someone who proposed closing hunting and trapping of wolves on half a million acres as a buffer zone around Denali Park, he is not a good choice for Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Monica Riedel
Executive Director,
Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission

Subject: No to Keeler

Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 21:40:50 PST

From: "Robert Glover" <whelen35@hotmail.com>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford,

I understand that a Mr. Keeler is to be placed on the Alaska State Fish and Game board. Because this man is said to be backed by the organization called Wildlife Alliance I am very concerned about his appointment. I also understand that you are against Mr. Keelers' appointment as well and I want you to know that you have my support.

Thank you,
Bob G.

Get Your Private, Free Email at <http://www.hotmail.com>

Subject: Leo Keelers

Date: Mon, 6 Mar 2000 22:46:54 -0800 (PST)

From: AK trapper <aktrapper1@yahoo.com>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator Halford:

I have been informed that you are supportive of Governor Knowles' appointment of Leo Keelers to the Board of Game.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider this endorsement. Mr. Keelers' support of the proposed "wolf protection buffer" around Denali Natl Park deeply disturbs me. This is in no way a biologically-based management decision, and is only reflective of Outside politics.

The Board of Game should consist of people willing to stand up to animal rights groups and support Alaskans. I do not believe that Mr. Keelers is one of these people.

Sincerely,
Dusty McDonald
North Pole

Do You Yahoo!?
Talk to your friends online with Yahoo! Messenger.
<http://im.yahoo.com>

Subject: Keegler Confirmation

Date: Mon, 06 Mar 2000 22:42:22 -0900

From: Jacque & Mike Tinker <tinker@mosquitonet.com>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

Rick, I understand that Mr. Keegler indicated that I supported his confirmation to the BOG. Nothing could be further from the truth. Yeh, he asks questions but his obvious disrespect for the law and duties of a member of the BOG reflect an arrogance we don't need. Count me in the NO column.

Mike Tinker, Fairbanks AC Chairman

Subject: Game Boarded Appt

Date: Tue, 07 Mar 2000 09:05:48 -0900

From: Bruce Knowles <bigfish@matnet.com>

To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us

I have spoken to many people out here in the valley and we are opposed to the appointment of Mr. Keeler to the Game Board. We do not feel that he will benefit the overall operation of the board

Bruce Knowles

A PERFECT WORLD

Once upon a time in an enchanted land:

Noble King Knowles and his loyal subjects,
Lived in a beautiful place...
It was a diverse land where all people had plenty,
Without regard for color, creed or race.

Wildlife was abundant because his advisors and subjects,
Were given an important say...
And developed the best wildlife management policy,
Known in the world today.

It was based on sound biology,
While providing a balance and abundance for all...
Where predators and ungulates were managed
Without worry of a population fall.

Then the balance was shattered by evil soothsayers
Who stole the ear of the King...
Convincing him that humans and wolves living together
Was the most important thing.

He overruled his wise advisors,
And loyal subjects throughout the land...
Noble King Knowles set wildlife policies
With ignorance and an unforgiving hand.

Soon the country had no caribou or moose
From Juneau to McGrath...
While noble King Knowles, his soothsayers and wolves
Skipped down a flower-covered path.

We live in a beautiful, perfect world
They would whisper under their breath...
While everyone else in this kingdom knew
They had loved the wildlife to death!!!

You can put a stop to a Kingdom without wildlife by promoting sound biological wildlife management in lieu of management by emotionally charged coercion. Please help in supporting Representative Morgan's resolution – HJR-56. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

D. Keith Phillips, President
Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Chapter
Safari Club International

Honorable Governor Tony Knowles
State of Alaska, Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles.

I would like to volunteer to serve on the Board of Game. I am 50 years old and have lived in Alaska since April of 1981, in the community of Cordova from 1981 to 1986 and now in Anchorage. I offer the following summary of my involvement with wildlife harvesting and management for your consideration.

I have hunted in Alaska almost every year since I could walk and accompany my father. As a teenager in Arizona, I trapped coyote, bobcat and fox to supplement our family's income. I have been successful hunting with archery equipment as well as a gun. I always depended on game meat for sustenance and have taken moose, sheep, caribou, deer and black bear here in Alaska. My hunt last season was for caribou near Dillingham, but I have hunted in Southeast Alaska, the Interior, the Arctic, the Alaska Peninsula and Central Alaska. In addition to my personal hunting, I assisted my brother and another close friend in the taking of a brown bear and I am constantly helping friends determine where to hunt and how to prepare for hunting in various regions of Alaska.

My formal education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in forest land management from Northern Arizona University. This curriculum taught me the interrelationships of vegetation management and manipulation as it affects wildlife and other resources. An informal education (self-taught) in wildlife photography has provided me an in depth understanding of how wildlife depend on and use their habitat.

My current job is a Real Estate Specialist for the Chugach National Forest. My primary duties are to monitor land conveyances to the state and Natives to ensure easements are retained to provide public access to public lands. I have also been the coordinator for the Chugach National Forest Rural Community Assistance program providing grants to assist in use of natural resources to develop or support businesses in rural communities.

Following the Owsichuk decision, which eliminated the exclusive guide system in Alaska, I represented the US Forest Service to the Outfitter Guide Board and Commercial Services Board while they were developing a new system under which guides could operate. Along with other federal representatives, I provided information on how state regulations could be coordinated with federal management. This process resulted in the current system enabling guides to be registered in a maximum of 3 guide use areas at any one time.

Earlier in my career as a Forester, I designed habitat manipulation projects to increase forage for deer and elk. I have also assisted biologists in population surveys and capacity analysis for wildlife. As a Forester in charge of recreation management, I know how important sound wildlife management is to the public, for both consumptive and non-consumptive users.

As wildlife photographers, my wife and I have had the opportunity to see and photograph events rarely observed. These events include interactions of predator and prey that have given me a good understanding of how each depends upon the other. Some of these have been used by biologists to convey their message of what is required for sound wildlife management. However, the income we have received from photography has primarily come from selling prints to tourists, and now screen savers to corporate clients.

In 1985, I served on the Cordova Fish and Game Advisory Committee. My most recent involvement in management of wildlife in Alaska has centered on efforts to raise recognition of unique and valuable wildlife resources. My wife and I were leaders in the process to establish the McNeil River Refuge, closing the Refuge to brown bear hunting. We are currently involved in efforts to protect the Toklat wolves when they leave Denali National Park. I have assisted the Department of Fish and Game by serving on the Stakeholders Group to revise the management and permit system for the McNeil River brown bear viewing program. I have submitted proposals to the Board of Game for the management of the McNeil River program and for the protection of the Toklat wolves.

I serve as Chairman of the Board of Friends of McNeil River. I also serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Chapter, American Society of Media Photographers. In addition, I am also a member of the North American Nature Photography Association, the premier organization for professional wildlife photographers worldwide, where I serve as the Chairman of the Advocacy Committee, which deals with issues impacting photographers, both regionally and nationally.

It would be an honor to serve you, the Legislature and the people of Alaska by becoming a member of the Board of Game.

Sincerely,



LEO KEELER
P.O. Box 190647
Anchorage, AK 99519

Work Phone - 271-2547

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FACSIMILE: (907) 465-2332

March 3, 2000

Honorable Rick Halford
Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Capitol Building, room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

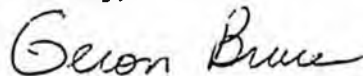
Dear Senator Halford:

You requested information regarding the purchases of hunting and fishing licenses by Mr. Leo J. Keeler, who was recently appointed to the Board of Game. We have checked our records and Mr. Keeler purchased hunting licenses for the years 1996 through 1999. In three of those years, he purchased a combination hunting and fishing license. In 1995, he purchased a fishing license, but not a hunting license.

I have enclosed the records of his license purchases from our license files and a key to the license codes.

If I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Geron Bruce
Special Assistant

cc: Pat Pourchot

Enclosures

SELLER
Vendor: 7452 Longs Drugs #103

FILM
Batch: 6098 Seq #: 66

LICENSE
Lic Yr: 1995 Type Code: AA Lic #: 398022

COLLECTION RPT
Doc Date: 08-30-1995 Doc #: 1

APPLICANTS NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS
BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AK 0781664 SSN

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ft in ALASKA RESIDENCY 14 YEARS 03 MONTHS

CLASS 04 DATE ISSUED 07-18-1995 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT YEAR:

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS Wild ITEM #:

SELLER
Vendor: 1265 Sports Den (The)

FILM
Batch: 19434
Seq #: 80

LICENSE
Lic Yr: 1996 Type Code: AA Lic #: 6204458

COLLECTION RPT
Doc Date: 08-20-1996
Doc #: 6

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS
BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AK 0781664 SSN

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ft in ALASKA RESIDENCY 15 YEARS 3 MONTHS

CLASS 01 DATE ISSUED 07-25-1996 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS YEAR: Wild ITEM #:

SELLER
Vendor: 3748 HIP Program

FILM
Batch: Seq #:
[] []

LICENSE
Lic Yr: 1997 Type Code: AA Lic #: 7620772

COLLECTION RPT
Doc Date: 07-23-1997 Doc #: 81

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)
LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS
PO BOX 190647

SOURCE
W

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519-0647 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER AK 0781664 SSN []

WEIGHT 185 EYE COLOR [] HAIR COLOR [] HEIGHT 5 ft 10 in ALASKA RESIDENCY 16 YEARS 3 MONTHS

CLASS 02 DATE ISSUED 07-16-1997 EFFECTIVE DATE 07-16-1997 CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC [] WILDLIFE PERMIT YEAR: 1997

BEGINNING DATE [] ENDING DATE [] RES STATUS [] Wild ITEM #: 17273

SELLER

Vendor: 0007

Mt. View Sports Center, Inc.

FILM

Batch: 40810

Seq #: 41

LICENSE

Lic Yr: 1998

Type Codc: AA

Lic #: 8153814

COLLECTION RPT

Doc Date: 06-16-1998

Doc #: 35

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST)

LEO

J

KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS

PO BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY

ANCHORAGE

STATE

AK

ZIP CODE

99519

COUNTRY

USA

SEX

M

US CITIZEN

Y

BIRTHDATE

02-25-1950

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER

AK

0781664

SSN

WEIGHT

EYE COLOR

HAIR COLOR

HEIGHT

ft

in

ALASKA

17

RESIDENCY

YEARS

MONTHS

CLASS

04

DATE ISSUED

05-22-1998

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC

WILDLIFE PERMIT

YEAR:

BEGINNING DATE

ENDING DATE

RES STATUS

Wild ITEM #:

SELLER Vendor: 0007 Mt. View Sports Center, Inc.

FILM Batch: 53241 Seq #: 287

LICENSE Lic Yr: 1999 Type Code: AA Lic #: 9127789

COLLECTION RPT Doc Date: 06-16-1999 Doc #: 13

APPLICANT'S NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) LEO J KEELER

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 190647

SOURCE

CITY ANCHORAGE STATE AK ZIP CODE 99519 COUNTRY USA

SEX M US CITIZEN Y BIRTHDATE 02-25-1950 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER SSN 526-88-3791

WEIGHT EYE COLOR HAIR COLOR HEIGHT ALASKA RESIDENCY 18 YEARS MONTHS

CLASS 04 DATE ISSUED 05-14-1999 EFFECTIVE DATE CLASS OF ORIGINAL LIC WILDLIFE PERMIT

BEGINNING DATE ENDING DATE RES STATUS YEAR: Wild ITEM #:

2000 ALASKA FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LICENSES SOLD HERE

| NONRESIDENT | | | | | | | | | | ALIEN |
|---|--|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CLASS SIX A 14 DAY SPORT FISHING | CLASS SIX D 7 DAY SPORT FISHING | CLASS SIX B 3 DAY SPORT FISHING | CLASS SIX C 1 DAY SPORT FISHING | CLASS SEVEN SPORT FISHING | CLASS EIGHT HUNTING | CLASS EIGHT A SM GAME HUNTING | CLASS NINE HUNTING SPORT FISHING | CLASS NINE C 6D & 8 COMBINA- TION | CLASS TEN HUNTING TRAPPING | CLASS FIFTEEN HUNTING |
| \$50.00 | \$30.00 | \$20.00 | \$10.00 | \$100.00 | \$85.00 | \$20.00 | \$185.00 | \$115.00 | \$250.00 | \$300.00 |

| RESIDENT | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| CLASS ONE SPORT FISHING | CLASS TWO HUNTING | CLASS THREE A HUNTING TRAPPING | CLASS THREE B TRAPPING | CLASS FOUR HUNTING SPORT FISHING | CLASS FIVE HUNTING TRAPPING SPORT FISHING |
| \$15.00 | \$25.00 | \$39.00 | \$15.00 | \$39.00 | \$53.00 |
| CLASS ONE A FISH/BLIND* \$25 | *Note: License classes marked with an asterisk (*) cannot be issued until the appropriate affidavit has been completed. Class One A and Two A Blind requires form 11-524 Affidavit of Blindness; persons who wish to purchase a Class 5A, Military, or Duplicate License, must complete affidavit on the back of the license or form 11-521. | | | | CLASS 5A* \$5.00 |
| CLASS TWO A HUNT/BLIND* \$25.00 | | | | | CLASS 5B* DUP for Class 5A ONLY \$2.00 |

ALASKA RESIDENT AS 16.05.940(26): "resident" means, a person (including an alien) who is physically present in Alaska with the intent to remain indefinitely and make a home here, has maintained that person's domicile in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license, and is not claiming residency or obtaining benefits under a claim of residency in another state, territory, or country; a member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has been stationed in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license; or a dependent of a resident member of the military service or U.S. Coast Guard who has lived in Alaska for the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding this application for a license. A person who does not otherwise qualify as a resident may not qualify by virtue of an interest in an Alaska business.

PERSONS EXEMPT FROM LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

- (a) Residents or nonresidents under the age of 16 years for sport fishing.
- (b) Residents under the age of 13 years for hunting and trapping.
- (c) Residents 60 years of age or more who have been residents for one year or more. (Note: A Permanent Identification Card, which must be in possession while sport fishing, hunting, or trapping, is available without charge from the Department of Fish and Game.)

| MILITARY | | | DUP* |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| CLASS TWELVE SPORT FISHING | CLASS THIRTEEN SMALL GAME HUNTING | CLASS FOURTEEN SPORT FISHING SMALL GAME HUNTING | CLASS EIGHTEEN DUPLICATE |
| \$15.00 | \$25.00 | \$39.00 | \$5.00 |

NONRESIDENT MILITARY TAGS AS 16.05.340(d)
Members of the military service on active duty who are permanently stationed in the state, and their dependents who do not qualify as residents under AS 16.05.26) may obtain special nonresident military small game and sport fishing licenses at the rates for resident hunting and sport fishing licenses, but may not take a big game animal without previously purchasing a regular nonresident hunting license at full cost and a numbered, nontransferable appropriate tag issued at one-half of the nonresident rate.

DUPLICATE LICENSES AND TAGS \$5.00
DUPLICATE CLASS 5A LICENSE \$2.00
A separate duplicate license or tag must be issued for each class of license or tag lost. Duplicate licenses and tags are available from any license vendor.

KING SALMON STAMP Resident \$10.00
Nonresidents
One-day stamp \$10.00
Three-day stamp \$20.00
Seven-day stamp \$30.00
Fourteen-day stamp \$50.00
Annual stamp \$100.00
Military \$20.00
Duplicate \$ 5.00

This stamp is required for anyone who fishes for anadromous king salmon except for residents and nonresidents under the age of 16 and persons who have these license types: Class 1A—\$25, Class 5A—\$5.00, Permanent Identification Card, or Disabled Veteran's License.

BIG GAME TAGS

The following state tags must be procured for each animal in addition to acquiring the proper license before hunting big game. The tag shall be affixed and sealed to the antlers or cape in such a manner that it cannot be removed or reused.

| Tag Type | Resident Rate |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Brown/Grizzly Bear | \$ 25.00 |
| Muskox-Bull | \$ 500.00 |
| Muskox-Cow | \$ 25.00 |

NONRESIDENTS hunting for brown/grizzly bear, sheep, or goat must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Sec. 16.05.407 of the Fish and Game Code of Alaska.

NONRESIDENT ALIENS hunting for any big game species must complete an affidavit showing that they will be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Sec. 16.05.408 of the Fish and Game Code of Alaska.

| Tag Type | Nonresident Rate | Military Rate | NR Alien Rate |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Brown/Grizzly Bear | \$ 500.00 | \$250.00 | \$ 650.00 |
| Black Bear | \$ 225.00 | \$112.50 | \$ 300.00 |
| Bison | \$ 450.00 | \$225.00 | \$ 650.00 |
| Caribou | \$ 325.00 | \$162.50 | \$ 425.00 |
| Deer | \$ 150.00 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 200.00 |
| Elk | \$ 300.00 | \$150.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| Goat | \$ 300.00 | \$150.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| Moose | \$ 400.00 | \$200.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Muskox | \$ 1,100.00 | \$550.00 | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Sheep | \$ 425.00 | \$212.50 | \$ 550.00 |
| Wolf | \$ 30.00 | \$ 15.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| Wolverine | \$ 175.00 | \$ 87.50 | \$ 250.00 |

WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP \$5.00
This stamp is required for anyone who hunts waterfowl except for residents under the age of 16, and persons who have these license types: Class 5A \$5.00, Permanent Identification Card, or Disabled Veteran's License.

Leo Keeler's Letters to the Editor, Taken from the Anchorage Daily News

Anchorage Daily News

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Thursday, February 10, 2000 Page: B9 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Time to weigh in on McGrath

McGrath moose dropped from 1,900 to 1,400 (26 percent decline), wolves from 164 to 56 (66 percent decline) and reports say nearby habitat will not support more moose. Have hunters "decreased?" No, they gather at McGrath to strategize.

Will the public support wolf control if someone just claims hardships? Are decision-makers asking basic questions like: Was 1,900 a natural peak? If wolf numbers naturally dropped 66 percent and moose dropped only 26 percent, are wolves really a problem? Nearby habitat cannot support more moose; what is different here? If hunters from outside the community take 50 percent of the moose, should only locals hunt here? Is this sound science?

Fish and Game got the Board of Game to pass wolf control to prevent moose decline in Unit 13. Their draft plan wants a change from 0.8 cows per mile to 1.0 per mile -- 20 percent increase, through aerial wolf harvest. Will support at McGrath lead to supporting this plan?

More than 20,000 people per year see the Toklat wolves of Denali. Will the board protect them from hunting and trapping? Will the McNeil River of wolves be lost to a saturation snare set?

Will the board decide each issue on its own merits? Is a wildlife board needed? Comments sent to the board by Feb. 18 will make a difference. Address: BOG Comments; Boards Support Section, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526; Fax 907-465-6094.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

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Tuesday, April 06, 1999 Page: B5 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife not just for hunters

In his March 29 Compass article, Alaska Outdoor Council President Rod Arno asks the public to give up their last voice in wildlife management -- the ballot initiative. Mr. Arno says the Board of Game will listen and act for all Alaskans.

At the November 1993 Game Board meeting a board member said, "If you don't hunt, we don't want to hear from you."

Nicole Whittington-Evans could not get confirmed to the board. She worked for an environmental organization.

Vic Van Ballenberghe, an expert moose biologist with years of field experience in Unit 13, would not commit himself to wolf control at any cost. He was not confirmed.

Any candidate that is not actively pro-hunting is blocked from confirmation by legislators that made recent confirmation hearings sound like the Spanish Inquisition.

The current board members appear more open to listening to the public, but are their decisions any different -- voting for same-day-airborne bear hunting?

Recent legislation requires the board to make a determination of best use of wildlife. I heard the board declare human consumption as highest use, just because lots of hunters use the area. Have any units been dedicated to other uses? Why not?

As a hunter, I say we must keep the ballot initiative process as it is. We also need to develop a "Wildlife Board" as a precursor to the Board of Game. Then wildlife management, not just hunting decisions, will be made for the benefit of all Alaskans, not just the 15 percent who hunt.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Saturday, May 09, 1998 Page: D10 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife board needed

The first Alaska Legislature realized that the management of fish and game was extremely important to all Alaskans and the general public should have control of how it is used. The Board of Fish and Game was established to enable the public to have that control.

The grueling confirmation process for Dr. Vic Van Ballenberghe and Nicole Whittington-Evans showed that today's legislators do not want the public fully represented in wildlife management. The Legislature's attempted reversal of the requirement to bring boned meat out to prevent waste highlights the Legislature's lack of concern for local requests and use of local knowledge. The loss of past board chairman Larry Holmes, because he encouraged full public participation in the board process, demonstrates the Legislature's desire to serve only hunters.

Legislation is developing to assure an elite few control use of Alaska's wildlife. Senate Bill 262 bars the board from regulating hunting equipment or hunting from roadways, moving cars, helicopters or other motorized vehicles. House Bill 414 always puts hunting over nonconsumptive uses. House Bill 168 prevents restricting ATV use regardless if requested by a local community or the use is destroying land. Senate Bill 250 requires unrealistic harvest levels. Should highly mobile and highly mechanized hunters be able to control the Legislature, do anything, go anywhere?

The wolf initiative showed that the public can remain involved and in control. With the Legislature ignoring the general public, maybe we need a wildlife board, with elected members who have more power in wildlife matters than the Legislature.

Write your representative.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Sunday, May 18, 1997 Page: E3 Section: Forum Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Board must represent public

As a hunter, I was amazed when Sen. Bert Sharp's April 27 letter dictated a position for wildlife management. He doesn't even pretend to listen to the public. The 58 percent vote on the wolf issue was a cry for fair process. Who heard it? As with the tobacco tax and billboards, the public's complaints on wildlife issues are discounted because hunters are "paying the entire cost of game management." Oil dollars run Alaska, not oil companies.

"Teaming with Wildlife" is a national program to have wildlife viewers contribute financially. Why hasn't the Legislature and Alaska's hunting groups supported "Teaming"? Will the \$14.8 million it will generate for Alaska take away the hunters' control of Alaska's wildlife managers? What decisions will prevail when "Teaming" funds surpass "hunters'" funds?

Sen. Sharp said that all have "unfettered opportunities to make their case before the board," even though past boards have stated that "if you don't hunt, I don't want to hear from you." Now that it appears the Board of Game may begin fulfilling its role as an autonomous group, efforts are being made to have only hunters on the board -- SB 22. If political pressure continues to make the board a puppet for hunters or for the Department of Fish and Game, why continue the charade? The Board of Game must separate itself from all interests, even Fish and Game, and represent only the public, or the process will fail and the public will vote to rebuild it another way. -- -- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, March 11, 1997 Page: B6 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Wildlife belongs to everyone

As a hunter, can I say I own Alaska's wildlife? The Alaska Constitution reserves wildlife for all residents, not only the 15 percent who hunt. It requires wildlife to be available for maximum use and benefit of all people. Sen. Taylor has proposed a law requiring Game Board members to hold hunting licenses. Will that ensure wildlife resources are used to benefit all people and interests, or give hunters ownership of Alaska's wildlife?

Hunting takes a public resource for private use. Do license fees for that privilege go to a public fund, similar to oil revenues or timber harvest? No. Alaska Statute 16.05.130 limits use of hunting fees and taxes to programs that only benefit hunters. What would Alaska look like if oil companies demanded the same consideration? Extremist legislators even cut wildlife education programs, thus limiting kids' ability to learn enough about wildlife to make informed decisions.

Alaska representatives are leading a growing nationwide drive to establish a Pitman Robertson-type tax on items used for wildlife watching and outdoor recreation. Extremist groups like Alaska Outdoor Council are fighting to prevent the "Teaming With Wildlife initiative" from becoming law. They claim there are problems with it. Rather than work to solve the problems and benefit wildlife, they would rather kill it. Alaska could get \$14.5 million for wildlife management from "teaming." Extremists are aware those funds would take away their control of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Shouldn't we be doing all we can to manage wildlife for everyone?

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, October 25, 1996 Page: B11 Section: Metro Edition: Final Bottom of Form 1 LETTERS TO PEOPLE

VOTE TO RESTORE TRUST

Alaska Outdoor Council is against the wolf initiative because it erodes existing public process. A process overly influenced by radical hunting lobbyists. That was demonstrated in the McNeil Refuge controversy, where 300 letters requested to stop bear hunting and only four wanted it to continue. In the face of such overwhelming odds, the board's vote was just 4-3 to close the hunt. Were the last-minute politics of Ruggles and Van Ballenberghe board appointments part of AOC's public process?

AOC says the initiative "promotes crisis management of wildlife." Initiative supporters say Fish and Game can control wolf populations when the commissioner says it is needed and land-and-shoot should not be an everyday practice.

AOC says current federal laws prohibit aerial shooting and wildlife harassment, and the initiative invites costly legal actions. Enforcement officers say they cannot enforce existing laws. Loopholes caused by state-approved practices make it difficult to enforce those laws. Existing laws also invite legal actions, what's so different?

Doug Pope, past Game Board member and initiative proponent, points out that the federal subsistence conflicts and the difficulties opening ANWR relate to lack of trust in Alaska's public process. The U.S. Congress set standards for subsistence management that Alaska has yet to fulfill. They control opening ANWR. Voting to stop land-and-shoot practices, except by Fish and Game or of legally trapped animals, will help restore confidence in Alaska's public involvement and our ability to manage resources responsibly.

-- Leo Keeler Anchorage

Anchorage Daily News

Friday, April 19, 1996 Page: B9 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE
Outdoor council not for Alaska

Alaska Outdoor Council is acting like the Freemen of Alaska. Their budget cut of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game now in legislation is just one example.

House Bill 77 (pushed by AOC to amend the Intensive Game Management Act) is on Gov. Knowles' desk for signing or vetoing. Fish and Game says HB 77 will devastate game management, both in total resource management and public support of hunting. To fulfill HB 77 mandates, caribou cows and calves will be shot, predators (including bears) will be maintained at low levels regardless of cost, scientific standards will be ignored and sustained yield will be defined by human desires, not natural abundance. Extremist leaders of AOC say because hunting fees support ADF&G that only hunting should be funded. Hunter surveys show average hunters are willing to have 20 percent of hunting fees go to support nonhunting activities. Currently, nonhunting programs are only 5 percent of the wildlife budget.

During legislative hearings on board appointments, AOC asked members to protest Vic Van Ballenberghe and Ann Ruggles. A Kenai member did, without checking, then apologized to Van Ballenberghe. How many others are blindly following this freeman band?

People and businesses are dropping AOC membership and support. As a hunter, I think that is the best thing they can do for Alaska and sound game management. Everyone will benefit if they and others write their legislators, Gov. Tony Knowles, or simply call your Legislative Information Office and leave a 50-word public opinion message supporting Knowles' board nominees and denouncing AOC's legislation.

-- Leo Keeler Anchorage

Anchorage Daily News

Thursday, August 03, 1995 Page: B8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Go hunt bears somewhere else

James Marchini wrote that the recent flood of hunting applications for the area including McNeil River State Game Refuge convinced him to apply next time, in revenge. Others are seeking ways to guarantee three bears are killed each year.

These people look at the McNeil River viewing program and just see a lot of bears. Would they look at the Mona Lisa and just see another painting? Would they care if they destroyed either one?

Many ethical hunters, like permit winner Bruce Baker, applied for the hunt to protect McNeil bears. A past Game Board member applied to protect McNeil bears. They all stood up for ethical hunters everywhere and said this hunt should be stopped. Like Safari Club or Ducks Unlimited, they were willing to act to end unethical hunts.

Some say the hunt is for different bears. They use data from the 1960-1970s tagging program, when most bears were harvested from the Katmai area, now a park. They do not acknowledge the shift in hunting pressure. They ignore recent Fish and Game biologists' reports of McNeil-like tolerance of bears in the hunting area. One bear calmly walked within 15 feet of the biologists.

You can vote to allow four hunters to hunt human-tolerant bears, or vote to close the area to hunting and have these four would-be hunters join the other 8,000 ethical bear hunters elsewhere in the state. Write to the Board of Game, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, 99802-5526.

-- Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, May 23, 1995 Page: B7 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Hunting McNeil bears unethical

Dick Bishop, of Alaska Outdoor Council, stated that hunting of McNeil River bears is a question of values. Friends of McNeil River questions the hunting of these specific bears, not the hunting of bears in other areas or even hunting moose or caribou in the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge. The value of McNeil bears and personal values or ethics of hunting these human-tolerant bears are the only issues.

To Friends, the bears that visit McNeil River Sanctuary are more valuable for viewing than for hunting. These bears are so tolerant of humans that they feed or even nurse their cubs within 50 feet, or closer, to humans, which makes hunting them unethical. We are asking those who agree with us to apply for permits

to hunt and, if drawn, to stay home. Permits can be picked up any place hunting/fishing licenses are sold; apply for hunt numbers 341 and 351.

Past efforts of Friends and the hundreds of letters from the public did not convince the Board of Game as to how strongly the public desires that these bears not be hunted. Instead, the board fulfilled the desires of AOC and the few hunters who do feel hunting these bears is ethical or true fair chase. I wonder if anyone who hunts the refuge will proudly tell his friends where he killed the bear. Especially, if his friends know that the McNeil River bears will let people walk right up to them.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Monday, September 27, 1993 Page: B8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Hunts at McNeil not 'fair chase'

Rod Arno's Sept. 2 letter complained about my efforts to close the McNeil River Refuge to brown bear hunting. Mr. Arno signed the letter as president of the Alaska Outdoor Council. I wonder if the ethical standards of AOC, and affiliated clubs, support hunting the McNeil River bears.

How can it be "fair chase" to hunt bears that have been taught for decades that people will not harm them? Hunting the McNeil River bears is not "fair chase," no matter where they are encountered. McNeil bears don't know the boundaries of the sanctuary that protects them. Traveling three miles north to the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge is easy for a bear. The Paint River fish ladder will draw more bears into the refuge where they will be hunted. Hunters will shoot at, injure or otherwise harm more bears than shown on harvest reports.

On Nov. 5, the Board of Game will address hunting in the McNeil River Refuge. Will they change their last decision allowing hunters to kill three McNeil bears? Will they ban brown bear hunting in the refuge and decrease the statewide harvest from 1,200 to 1,197, a 0.0025 percent reduction? Aren't the McNeil bears worth this small reduction?

As a hunter, I feel the value of the McNeil River viewing program is worth much more than the killing of three bears. If you feel the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge should be closed to hunting, write to the Board of Game in Juneau.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Tuesday, August 17, 1993 Page: E8 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

McNeil bears aren't fair game

Do Alaskans consider hunting the McNeil River brown bears ethical hunting? The president of Alaska Outdoor Council said in his letter to the editor of July 22 that "hunters will share the McNeil River State Refuge lands with wildlife viewers." I hope he does not think Alaskans want to watch bears accustomed to people walking up to shoot pictures of them be shot with rifles instead.

Some try to say that when the bears leave McNeil Falls they are again afraid of people. However, biologists have seen and recognized these individual bears in other areas and found the bears still demonstrate their

habituated nature. I have hunted brown bears for many years and will continue to do so as long as I am sure it is a "fair chase" type of hunt. Hunting the McNeil River is not very sporting or "fair chase."

Everyone is worried about what Bruce Babbitt's impression of Alaska and Alaskans will be and how his visit may influence future decisions. I hope that Babbitt and the Game Board see that not all hunters want things made easy for them, that Alaskans recognize and protect world-class resources such as the bear viewing at McNeil River and that we will make wise decisions that protect our unique resources.

Let Babbitt know your opinion and write the Board of Game, Box 25526, Juneau 99802, asking them to close the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge to bear hunting.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Wednesday, July 14, 1993 Page: B7 Section: Metro Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Consider all uses of wildlife

The Alaska Outdoor Council is urging Fish and Game to forgo management practices that lead to habituation of brown bears.

Coincidentally, the president of AOC runs a bear-hunting guide business on lands surrounding the McNeil River Brown Bear Sanctuary. AOC is beginning to lobby the Board of Game before they address closing the McNeil River Brown Bear Refuge to bear hunting in November.

Does AOC represent all outdoor interests as they say? Will ADF&G and the Board of Game recognize AOC's single-minded objective to fight any restriction on hunting and fishing, and not support other uses of state resources? If enough of the public voice their desires, maybe the Alaska Board of Game will consider nonconsumptive uses of wildlife.

During last year's controversy over McNeil River, Alaska residents and bear biologists identified the public enjoyment, economic value, scientific and educational usefulness of bear viewing. The new book "River of Bears" describes the history of development and value of bear viewing at McNeil River. A statement in the book "The only thing in life humans really need to worry about is ignorance and prejudice" appears to describe the major problem related to bear viewing and AOC's position.

Some will assume I am an animal rights activist without bothering to learn I hunt each year and guided my brother on a successful brown bear hunt last year. Others will be more open-minded and voice their views to the Board of Game before its November meeting.

Leo Keeler

Anchorage Daily News

Sunday, August 18, 1991 Page: E4 Section: Forum Edition: Final LETTERS TO PEOPLE

Save McNeil River sanctuary

The Army Corps of Engineers completed an analysis of the Paint River fish ladder in 1988. It stated the bears at McNeil River would be impacted, but did not say how. It did not address how the habits of the bears, or the viewing opportunities at McNeil River would change. Impact to McNeil River's designation as