

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004

8672

11299 SENATE RESOURCES

Same day airborne predator control

ignored. Those are my comments,

Thank you for your time,

Gabrielle Russell

Fairbanks

re: SB 155

**Subject: re: SB 155**

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

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

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

Senator Ogan,

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

Norman Solberg

Norman Solberg

Denali View

HC89 Box 8360, 15669 East Coffee Lane

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

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

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

**Subject: SB155**

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

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

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

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

**Subject:** Fish and Game matters

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

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

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

**To:** Distribution

**From:** Wayne Heimer

1098 Chena Pump Road

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

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

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

#### Recent history:

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

#### Some related ancient history:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

requires allocation of harvests by the Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **So what?**

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

**Subject:** SB 155

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

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

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

Dear Sen. Ogan

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

Trapping does not produce the thinning effect that is needed.

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

Sincerely,

Dave Millard

**Subject: SB 155**

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

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

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

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

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**Subject: SB 155**

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

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

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

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

Wayne Kubat, Chair

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

ph. & fax: 376-9568

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

April 24th, 2003

Senator Scott Ogan,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Wayne Kubat - Chair

**Subject: SB 155**

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

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

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

Dear Senator Ogan:

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

Your support is appreciated.

Ed Kern

Dear Representatives, and Senators,

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

Thank You,  
Judy Calder

**Subject:**

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Senator Ogan,

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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



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

APR 25 2003

April 21, 2003

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

Dear Senator Ogan:

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

Please oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

  
Wade and Marilyn Henry

Wolf control

**Subject:** Wolf control

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

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

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

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

Hello Senator Seekins & others,

4-20-03

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

I hope you are successful in this endeavor.

Thank you,

Jake Jacobson, Kodiak & Kotzebue

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

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

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

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

Senator Ogan,

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

Thank you for considering the following points.

Paul Joslin

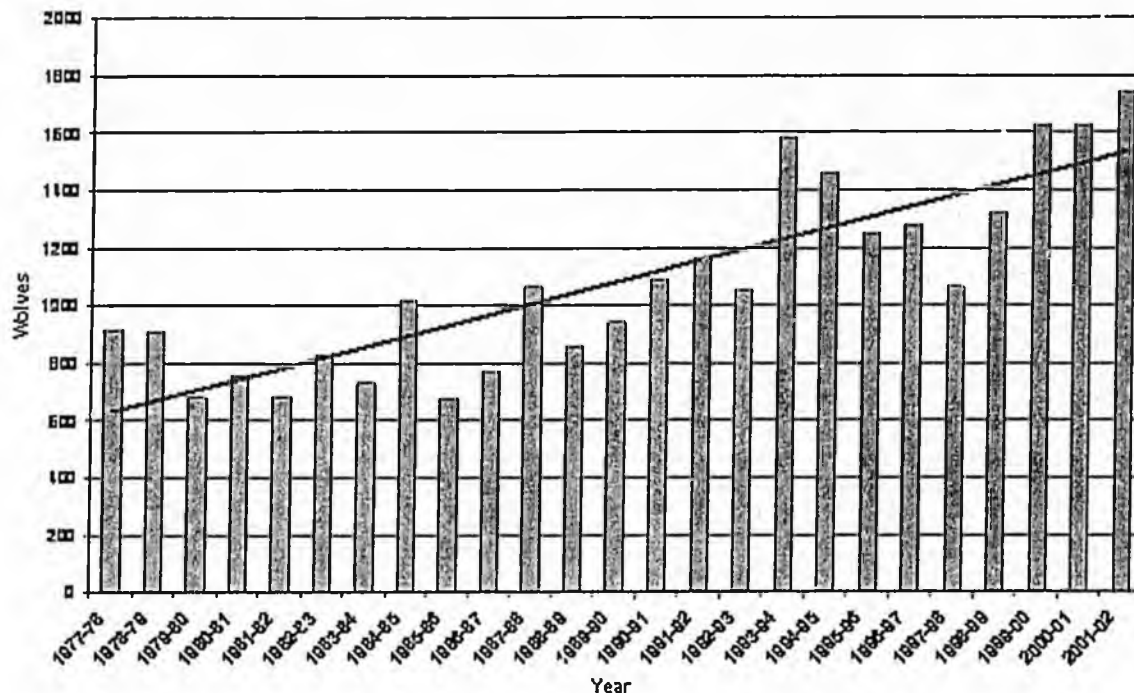
### Why We Do Not Need Aerial Wolf Control

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

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

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

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



Source: ADF&G Annual Harvest Summary Records

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

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

### What have they learned

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Conclusion**

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

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

Thank you again for your consideration in this matter.

Paul Joslin, Ph.D.

ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

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Website: [www.akwildlife.org](http://www.akwildlife.org)

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

April 8, 2003

Re: Management of Alaska's Renewable Wildlife Resources

Dear Governor Murkowski,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A frustrated constituent,

Thomas N. Scarborough

**Subject: HB208 and SB155**

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

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

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

Dear Senators:

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

Patrick O'Connor

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

Homer, AK 99603

April 2, 2003

Senate Judiciary Committee

Alaska State Senate

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Committee Members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

TOM SCARBOROUGH  
1676 TAROKA DRIVE  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709  
(907) 479-3412 FAX (907) 479-6602  
E-mail tj3412@myexcel.com

## MEMO

To: Sen. Ralph Seekins  
Chair-Judiciary Committee

From Tom Scarborough

Date: April 2, 2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I suggest the following changes to SB 155.

Line 5 after wolf add (coyote,)

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

Line 13 Change to read (with the population directive)

Line 14 Delete the word (program)

Page 2 SB 155

Line 7-11 Delete all wording

**Subject: Senate Bill 155 update**

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

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

**To: info@akwildlife.com**

Dear Senator,

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Dorothy Keeler

**Subject:** SB155 / HB108

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

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


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

Attached are my personal feeling on this bill.

Harry

(See attached file: fly\_shoot.doc)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,

A Voter.

Harry Devasconcellos

**Subject:** xxx

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

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

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

Subject: HB 208 and SB 155

Dear Senators and Representatives:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

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

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**Subject: Senate Bill 155**

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

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

**To:** info@akwildlife.com

Dear Senator,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most sincerely,

Dorothy Keeler

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Subject: Predator Control Program**

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

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

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

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Keith Phillips

**D. Keith Phillips**  
Unocal Alaska Resources

Predator Control Program

Inspection Supervisor

(907) 776-6710 Office

(907) 776-6783 Fax

(907) 252-1519 Cell

*MAKE IT IDIOT PROOF AND SOMEONE*

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

March 31, 2003

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

Dear Senator Ogan,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Grasser

**Subject: HB208 and SB155**

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

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Hamrick  
President  
Alaska's Kenai Peninsula Chapter of SCI

**Subject: SB155**

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

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

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

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

**Subject: SB 155**

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

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

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

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

March 31, 2003

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

Dear Committee Members:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

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

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

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

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

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

William P. Hamm  
4831 Retriever Circle  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

**Subject: HB 208 SB155**

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

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

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

To whom it may concern,

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

Thank you and God Bless,

Bruce Carter  
Box 48  
Healy, Ak 99743

**Subject: Oppose SB 208 Testimony**

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

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

**To: info@akwildlife.com**

Dear Legislator,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most sincerely,

Dorothy Keeler

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

**Subject:** same-day-airborne

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

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

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

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

Dear Senator Seekins and Representative Fate:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Predator Control.....Please help!

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

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Ogan,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Subject:** SB 155

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

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

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

Dear Senator

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

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

Thanks.

Mark Gordon

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

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

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

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

Dear Alaskan Legislator,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Norman Solberg  
32 yr resident of Alaska

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

**Subject: Predator Management**

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

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

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

Dear Senator Ogan:

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

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

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

Thank you for your support.

Clark Whitney  
Master Guide #131  
Soldotna, Alaska

**Subject: SB 155**

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

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

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

Dear Senator Ogan;

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

Land and shoot is an effective method of predator control.

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

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

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

Please support SB 155.

Predator control is part of a viable wildlife management program.

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

Respectfully

Glen Holt

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Anna Groff**

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

**Phone: 907-983-3600**

**Subject: Predator control opposition**

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

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

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

Dear Senators,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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

**Subject: sb155 and hb 208**

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

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

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

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

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**Subject: wolf control**

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

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

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

Honorable Legislators:

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

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

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

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

Respectively yours,

Greg Pepperd  
Member, Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

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

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

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

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

Wayne Kubat, Chair

PO Box 874867

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

ph. & fax: 376-9568

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

March 24th, 2003

Dear Legislators,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Wayne Kubat - Chair

**Subject: Predator Control Bills**

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

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

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

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

**Subject: SB 155,HB 208**

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

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

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

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

---

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**Subject:** SB 155 & HB 208

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

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

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

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

Representatives and Senators,

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

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

Sincerely, John D. Graham

**Subject: I support predator control**

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

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

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

Hello

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

Thanks

Mark Graham

Mark A. Graham, L.C.  
Coffman Engineers, Inc.  
800 F Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-276-6664  
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**Subject: SB 155/HB208**

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

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

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

Attention: Senator Ogan

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

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

Thank you

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

**Subject:** SB 155

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

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

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

Dear Senator Ogan,

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

Sincerely,

Larry Hamsley

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*Distributed by Rep. Carl Nunberg*

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

March 24, 2003

SUBJECT: SB 155

To The Alaska State Legislature:

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

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

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

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

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

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

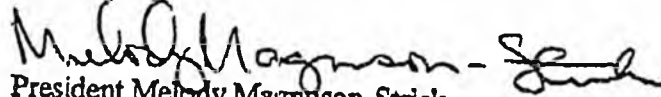
We do support giving the Board of Game authority to institute a predator control program involving airborne or same day airborne shooting. Due to our area's topography and/or geography airborne or same day airborne shooting is necessary to accomplish a successful game management program authorized by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

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

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

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

Thank you,



President Melody Magnuson-Strick  
MTNT, Limited

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

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

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

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

Thank you.

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

**Subject: SB 155 AND HB 208**

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 09:37:05 -0900

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

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

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

Thank you.

Ben Barclay, P.E.

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

**Date:** Mon, 24 Mar 2003 19:10:57 -0900

**From:** "Elizabeth Shine" <lshine15@hotmail.com>

**To:** Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us, Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us,  
Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us, Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us,  
Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

**From:** T.J. Shine  
P.O. Box 874895  
Wasilla, AK 99687  
907/376-5975  
easjump@mtaonline.net

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Twenty five years of personal experience have shown me the awful consequences of deferred predator control in GMU's 13+16. Wolves especially have decimated game populations and proliferate unchecked.

Please pass this legislation which allows our Wildlife Professionals to act on their management decisions. The current predator/prey imbalance is a tragic problem for many Alaskans. It cries out to you for a solution.

Thank you

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From the desk of  
Budd Goodyear, BA, MLA, MSM

March 24, 2003

Sen. Scott Ogan  
State Capitol, Rm 103  
Juneau, AK 998011182  
Fax: 907-465-3265

Sen. Ogan, I support predator control for Unit 13. The moose and caribou populations in that unit have been almost totally destroyed by the wolves and brown bears. I understand that the Alaska Game Board needs legislation passed supporting its decisions on matters of predator control because of interference from preservationists. I support that legislation.

SB 155 and HB 208 should do the job. Please give these measures your full consideration. In addition to the bills as written I would like to see a bounty placed on wolves in Unit 13. Further, in Unit 13 and other units with bear problems, a hunter should not be prosecuted for shooting a sow brown bear with cubs if the cubs are recovered alive and adopted out. This change could be temporary until the bears are under control.

Now a note about the preservationists. In 1973 the National Wildlife's publication, "Conservation News," reported that a study had revealed that 80 percent of the people living in New York City were neurotic because they chose to live in a large city away from contact with the natural world. Thirty years later--today--it seems likely to me that these neurotic people have become psychotic. When it comes to managing wildlife, we--this country--this state--should NOT listen to people who give themselves an emotional handicap on the issue by living in large cities.

Sen. Ogan, there are several cultural wars ongoing in this country besides the ones in this state. You can see the battle lines by looking at the red and blue map of the geographic areas carried by President Bush in the last election. The battle lines are around large cities, places where the inhabitants have lost touch with the real world. The stench of sophistication and elitism coming from large cities is sickening.

Best Regards,

Budd Goodyear

**Subject: SB155 & HB 208**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 20:25:55 -0900

**From:** "Jeannette James" <usual@ptialaska.net>

**To:** "Ralph Seekins" <Senator\_Ralph\_Seekins@legis.state.ak.us>, "Hugh Fate" <Representative\_Hugh\_Fate@legis.state.ak.us>, "Beverly Masek" <Representative\_Beverly\_Masek@legis.state.ak.us>, "Carl Gatto" <Representative\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us>, "Cheryll Heinze" <Representative\_Cheryll\_Heinze@legis.state.ak.us>, "Bob Lynn" <Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us>, "Carl Morgan" <Representative\_Carl\_Morgan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Kelly Wolf" <Representative\_Kelly\_Wolf@legis.state.ak.us>, "David Guttenberg" <Representative\_David\_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us>, "Beth Kerttula" <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.us.ak>, "Scott Ogan" <Senator\_Scott\_Ogan@legis.state.ak.us>, "Gene Therriault" <Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us>

Thanks to the sponsors of SB155 and HB 208 which would authorize a predator management program involving airborne or same day airborne taking of predators if approved by ADF&G.

It is about time we have the authority to meaningfully manage predators for the management of predator/prey populations.

The most critical of all areas are Unit 13 and 19D, however it is important that we manage our resources in a meaningful way statewide. All the testimony I heard over the years from folks who are knowledgeable on this issue of airborne taking of predators, and my own eighth grade science tell me that this is the most effective way to implement control of wolves as predators.

I understand that there are some who don't believe in predator control at all and would prefer some other methods that my study indicates are not really effective. But most biologists I have talked to, say from the air is the only way to do it successfully.

A very small percentage of the moose population is taken by hunters, both subsistence and other. Moose is an important food source for many Alaskans, and particularly those who live off the road system.

I urge you to quickly vote to pass these bills out of committee and to the floor. I trust that you will be able to get sufficient votes in both houses so that one of these bills might make a beeline to the third floor for the Governors signature Sooner is better than later.

Thank you for your efforts.

Jeannette James

**Subject: HB 208 and SB 155 \*\*\*SUPPORT\*\*\***

**Date: Sun, 23 Mar 2003 21:07:19 -0900**

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

**To: <spotmom@mtaonline.net>**

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Rodney J. Herrin and

Cathy L. Herrin

P.O. Box 2451

Palmer, AK, 99645

**Subject: Predator Control**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 08:20:53 -0900

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

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

I've lived in Alaska for over 50 years and one thing that I have learned is we have to have predator control. When my folks came to Alaska in the 40's there were very few moose and caribou and sheep. The government implemented a predator control, airborn hunting, bounty on wolves and coyotes and others. Within a few years we had an abundance of moose, sheep and caribou. We have some very knowledgeable biologist and advisory committies. Shieffield took away the voice of the advisory committies and the biologist in favor of the ANTI's. We need to get back control of our management of wildlife and the recommendations of our biologist and advisory committies. It has been proven time and again that the only effective means of wolf control is by local pilots.  
Thank You  
Doug Frederick

**Subject: Predator control**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 18:05:23 -0900

**From:** David Oathout <doathout@gci.net>

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

**CC:** Senator\_Gene\_Therriault@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Senator

I have hunted in unit 13 for 29 years. I have seen a steady decline in Moose and Caribou populations while predators have steadily increased in numbers. One year I climbed up a mountain side and with binoculars counted almost 200 cow moose, and saw only three yearling calves. I have no doubt that hunters didn't kill the calves, predators did. That was 1990. Last year from the same mountain side I was able to count 6 cows and no calves. We did encounter several bears and 3 calf kill sites two of them twins. We saw some wolves about 4 miles away across the river and heard them at night close to our camp.

Anyone with a lick of sense will understand this problem started when land and shoot regulations were put in to effect. Wolves are incredibly hard to hunt on foot. I defy anyone to tell me they are effective in hunting wolves this way.

This is not a "fair chase" issue. This is a game management issue.

Please support Land and shoot regulations. Then we need to get the job done before the fools can vote our hunting rights away again.

Thanks

David M. Oathout

3521 Glenn Don Circle

Anchorage, Alaska

99504

**Subject:**

**Date:** Sun, 23 Mar 2003 14:41:43 -0900

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

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

Senator Seekins and Representative Bud Fate introduced identical legislation (SB 155 and HB 208) that allows the Board of Game to authorize a predator management program involving *airborne or same day airborne taking of predators* if approved by ADF&G.

- 1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wildlife populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.
- 2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.
- 3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

I fully support SB 155 and HB 208 and would also like to see that the Department of Fish & Game be allowed to make game management decisions. The State should keep politics out of game management and let F & G do their job as they see fit.

Thank you for your support on this issue.

Barney & Debbie Booyen

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 00:24:51 -0900

**From:** Gene Yockey <geneyock@gci.net>

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

I strongly support this legislation. You need to encourage same day airborne and even go further to encourage hunting guides to offer same day airborne hunts for wolves. Don't let the anti crowd bully us into thinking they are the majority or that they represent the interest of true Alaskans.

Thank you.

Gene Yockey

**Subject: Predator Control**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 20:23:00 -0900

**From:** "Kitty Grosse" <sawinglogs@yahoo.com>

**To:** <Representative\_Beth\_Kerttula@legis.state.ak.us>

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

I am strongly in favor of predator control for the following reasons. Please vote in favor of any and all control.

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

2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.

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

Thank you,  
Glen Casagrande and Kathleen Grosse

wolf control yes!

**Subject: wolf control yes!**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 07:45:22 -0900

**From:** "Brent Keith" <brent@usibelli.com>

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

Hello from Healy Mr. Ogan:

I just wanted to contact you and add my full support of SB155 and HB208, these bill's are key to a successful predator control plan. I don't believe that the state needs to totally fund a program like this, I believe the public should do their part. As a registered guide conducting hunts in both units 13 and mostly 20 I've been doing the best I can at trapping, but as you well know a fella can only cover so much country by snowmachine. I average about 12 wolves per season out of the area I trap. If these bill's go through the added advantage of using aircraft will increase the chances of harvesting certain packs that are typically unreachable by snowmachine and detrimental to the moose and caribou herds of the area.

I thank you for your time and keep up the good work.  
Happy Hunting,

Brent Keith  
CASTLE ROCK OUTFITTERS  
P.O. Box 88  
Healy, AK. 99743  
907-683-1250  
[www.castlerockoutfitters.com](http://www.castlerockoutfitters.com)

**Subject: Predator control**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Mar 2003 08:41:28 -0900

**From:** "Chris Osowski" <chrisosowski@msn.com>

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

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

Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.

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

Finally, I see this as an opportunity to re-establish our right to govern ourselves rather than allow special interest groups from outside tell us how they think we need to manage our resources when all the while we have our own expert sceinists and bioligists who have spent years studying the affected game and fish populations here first hand that reccommend we take these steps.

Thanks,

Chris

---

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*Richard H. Bishop*  
1555 Gus's Grind  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[rbishop@pttalaska.net](mailto:rbishop@pttalaska.net) - 455-6151

March 22, 2003

Sen. Scott Ogan  
Alaska State Legislature  
FAX 465-3265

Dear Senator Ogan:

Please pass SB 155 or HB 208 so that we don't have to go back to the "good old days". In the "good old days" moose were scarce in the Interior.

Prospectors on the Salcha River in 1889 met an Athabaskan who had followed the same moose cross country for 3 days before killing it with a bow and arrows.

Lt. Zagoskin in 1842 documented that people living on the Kuskokwim River could only find moose in the foothills of the Alaska Range. Nick Mellick, who mined, trapped, and ran a trading post in the early 1900's told me that moose showed up around Sleetmute about 1913—there had been virtually none available before then.

Sydney Huntington often reminds us of how scarce moose were in the Koyukuk River country until the 30's and 40's, and how his brother Jimmy and Don Stickman shot many wolves from the air in the mid-50's to help moose numbers recover, which they did quite well. Today the Koyukuk River is overlaid by a federal refuge, and aerial shooting is illegal everywhere.

Ironically, federal management policy is "no management", even though federal law is supposed to provide for subsistence use.

Today, 60% of Alaska's lands are under the federal "no management" policy. Another 20% to 30% is unavailable for predator-prey or habitat management due to closed areas, urbanization, and "rocks and ice" habitat.

Please pass SB155 or HB208 to ensure that predator-prey management, if needed, can be done successfully in the few areas where it remains an option.

I recommend that you further amend AS16.05.783 (b)(2) by adding after "employee" the phrase "or agent" in the 2 places "employee" appears. ADF&G should not have to incur the added cost of hiring people to assist with a management program. Not even the misguided federal Airborne Hunting Act requires that.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Bishop

cc: Alaska Outdoor Council

**Subject:**

**Date:** Fri, 21 Mar 2003 17:44:00 -0900

**From:** "Stewart Smith" <stewsell@acsalaska.net>

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



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Please support SB 155 and HB 208

- 1) This legislation is critical to rebuilding Alaska's wild life populations. Unit 13's moose population has dropped from 27,000 to 7,000 in a decade. Unit 19D moose density has fallen from 3-4 per square mile to 1 per square mile, a 75% reduction.
- 2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.
- 3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.
- 4) Predator management can only occur on a very small portion of Alaska's lands - less than 10% - once mountains, urbanization, federal inertia, and habitat conditions are factored in. Also, both predator and prey are protected by the law - they cannot be extirpated - contrary to false statements from animal rights groups.

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EMAIL STATIONERLY CREATED BY:

realtours

**Subject: SB 155 and HB 208**

**Date: Fri, 21 Mar 2003 19:56:33 -0900**

**From: Ray Wilson <jrwilson@alaska.net>**

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

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

2) Predator management plans passed years ago have sat on the shelf because they included same day airborne. This legislation will help take them off the shelf and give the Board of Game and ADF&G the tools they need to start rebuilding Alaska's wildlife.

3) This is not a "fair chase" issue - this is a scientific management issue. We need to give the ADF&G and Board of Game the tools they need to balance predator-prey relations - and provide opportunities for human harvest.

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

5) Lets manage our wild life using sound scientific data.

6) Refuse to bow to animal rights activists that would rather we manage our wild life with misguided, ignorant, misinformation based on emotions.

Ray E Wilson  
MSG (ret) U.S. Army Special Forces  
Fairbanks, Alaska

wolf kill program

**Subject:** wolf kill program

**Date:** Thu, 13 Mar 2003 06:11:35 -0900

**From:** THOMAS PRUNTY <TPRUNTY@alaska.com>

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

Chugjak constituent

Senator Ogan:

This brief email is to show my great displeasure with the current predator program. I hope that this does not happen. I have spent a lot of time in the Bush and I know that this kind of control is very foolish.

Thank You, Tom Prunty



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ADDENDUM AND UPDATE  
TO  
THE ATTACHED WOLF MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

MY PROPOSAL IS AIMED TOWARD A LONG TERM SOLUTION BY ESTABLISHING STATE WIDE WOLF HARVEST OBJECTIVES THAT ARE:

1. ONGOING AND ADJUSTABLE TO CHANGING CONDITIONS.
2. ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PUBLIC IN A MANNER IN WHICH REVENUE FLOW IS POSITIVE RATHER THAN NEGATIVE TO THE STATE.
3. COMMON AND CONSISTENT WITH THE HARVEST OF ALL OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCES.
4. EMPLOY METHODS AND MEANS ALREADY BEING USED IN HARVESTING OTHER RENEWABLE RESOURCES. (DEER AND CARIBOU ARE CURRENTLY BEING HARVESTED SAME DAY AIRBORNE.)
5. NOT CONTROVERSIAL IN THAT IT PROPOSES NOTHING THAT IS NOT ALREADY A PART OF OUR CURRENT GAME MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
6. ACCEPTABLE ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS USING METHODS AND MEANS ALREADY USED ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS.

THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT:

1. A QUICK FIX THAT FOCUSES ON A SMALL SELECT AREA TO "STUDY".
2. DESIGNED TO MAKE WORK FOR STATE EMPLOYEES IN THE FORM OF SHOOTING WOLVES FROM HELICOPTERS AND ABANDONING THE HIDES, STERILIZING WOLVES, STUDYING WOLVES AD INFINITUM. QUICK FIXES: HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED SINCE THE 1950'S F&W PROGRAM, WHICH, AS WE ALL KNOW CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNGULATE POPULATIONS TO EXPAND TO AREAS NEVER POPULATED BEFORE, AND TO GREATLY INCREASE NUMBERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE. BUT QUICK FIXES ARE JUST THAT - THEY DO NOT PRESENT ANY LONG TERM SOLUTION AND ARE CONSTANTLY AND POLITICALLY VULNERABLE TO MANY FORCES. QUICK FIXES EXTRACT A HUGE TOLL OF TIME AND MONEY, WHETHER IT IS YET ANOTHER STUDY, ANOTHER MEETING, ANOTHER INITIATIVE OR WAITING FOR A NEW GOVERNOR.
3. DESIGNED TO PAD THE POCKETS OF ORGANIZATIONS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO TAKING OF ANY WOLVES, ANY TIME, ANY WHERE, AND WHO DEPEND ON THE PREDATOR CONTROL CONTROVERSY TO MEET THEIR BUDGET OBJECTIVES.

MY HOPE IS:

1. IN THIS NEW DAY OF ENLIGHTENMENT (AS WE SIT IN YET ANOTHER MEETING ON THIS VERY SAME ISSUE (SEE THE DATE, 1989, OF MY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL) JUST MAYBE SOMEONE MIGHT SAY, "BY GOLLY IT MIGHT BE WORTH A TRY!!" WE SEEM TO HAVE TRIED ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE AND IT JUST AIN'T WORKING.

RESPECTFULLY,

DICK GUNLOGSON

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



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### ALASKA BOARD OF GAME, NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

MY TESTIMONY WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD ATTEMPTING TO PUT THE WOLF HARVEST INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE IN RELATION TO ITS IMPORTANCE AND PLACE IN ALASKA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

SIMPLY PUT, OUR WOLF POPULATION IS BUT ANOTHER OF OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCES, AND SHOULD BE VIEWED NO DIFFERENTLY FROM THE SALMON FISHING INDUSTRY OR ALL THE OTHER READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCES WE HARVEST EVERY YEAR. AN ANNUAL HARVEST OF ONE THOUSAND WOLVES REPRESENTS AN INCOME OF FROM THREE TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS! VIRTUALLY ALL OF THIS IS NEW MONEY IN THE ALASKAN ECONOMY AND IT STAYS HERE, TO THE BENEFIT OF THE APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC MULTIPLIERS. BEST OF ALL WE HAVE JUST AS MANY WOLVES AGAIN THE NEXT YEAR AND THE HARVEST CAN CONTINUE. IN THESE DAYS OF DECLINING REVENUES THESE DOLLARS REPRESENT A VERY SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PUT INTO THE ECONOMY OF THE STATE - ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS MONEY THAT GOES TO SUPPORT THE AVERAGE ALASKAN WHO MAKES HIS HOME AND HIS LIVING HERE IN ALASKA.

I SUBMIT TO THE BOARD THAT THE WOLF POPULATION CAN AND SHOULD BE PROPERLY MANAGED ON THE BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE OF MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD, AS IT RELATES TO THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONCEPT. HARVEST QUOTAS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH GMU, AND, MOST IMPORTANT, ADEQUATE METHODS AND MEANS WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD ENSURE THOSE QUOTAS ARE MET. I FEEL THAT THIS BOARD IS DOING A GRAVE INJUSTICE TO THE MAJORITY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE IN ALASKA BY PAYING AN UNDUE AMOUNT OF TIME AND ATTENTION TO A SMALL VOCAL GROUP OF PEOPLE, MOSTLY NEW TO THE STATE, IF EVEN RESIDENTS, WHOSE VIEWS ARE BLINDLY EMOTIONAL IN NATURE AND IN TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE VALUE OF THIS RESOURCE TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND MAKE A LIVING HERE IN ALASKA.

THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE CONCEPT IS MUCH MORE TO THE ISSUE THAN IS THE PREDATOR ISSUE CONCERNING THE WOLF POPULATION. IF WOLVES ARE MANAGED AS A READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCE, WHICH WE KNOW THEM TO BE, AND, THEY ARE HARVESTED ON A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS, WE WOULD HAVE NEITHER A PROBLEM WITH EXCESSIVE WOLF POPULATIONS, NOR WITH EXCESSIVE PREDATION ON UNGULATE SPECIES. THE ANNUAL WOLF HARVEST WOULD KEEP THE WOLF POPULATION WITHIN LIMITS WHICH IN TURN WOULD HELP TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE POPULATION OF UNGULATES.

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



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PAGE TWO

IF THE BOARD TRULY SEEKS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE BETWEEN WOLVES AND UNGULATE SPECIES TO THE BENEFIT OF THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ALASKANS THEY CAN DO SO BY PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE MAXIMUM SUSTAIN YIELD CONCEPT. CERTAINLY, WE KNOW THAT OUR STATE BIOLOGISTS CAN MANAGE WOLVES ON THE SAME BASIS AS THEY DO OUR OTHER READILY RENEWABLE RESOURCES OF FISH AND GAME.

I WOULD BE AMONG THE FIRST TO SUPPORT A VIABLE WOLF POPULATION THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE STATE. AS A PROFESSIONAL HUNTER WE TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE IN BEING ABLE TO SEE AND HEAR WOLVES, ON OCCASSION, AND FOR OUR CLIENTS TO DO THE SAME. I CERTAINLY DO NOT FAVOR WIPING OUT THE WOLF POPULATION. HOWEVER, BY THE SAME TOKEN A GOOD SHARE OF OUR INCOME CAN BE DERIVED FROM HARVESTING SURPLUS WOLVES. NOT ONLY DOES THIS BRING INCOME TO US TO HELP RAISE OUR FAMILIES HERE IN ALASKA, BUT IT ALSO ENABLES US TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE AMONG THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN ANY GIVEN AREA.

AND, IN TOTAL CONTRAST TO THE NEGATIVE CASH FLOW BROUGHT ABOUT BY SPENDING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF TAXPAYERS MONEY TO GO OUT AND TO THIS VERY SAME JOB, WE CAN DO IT AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER - INDEED, THE RESULT IS A STRONG POSITIVE CASH FLOW INTO THE ECONOMY.

I HAVE HUNTED WOLVES IN MOST AREAS OF THE STATE AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER OVER THE LAST 25-30 YEARS. A VERY SIMPLE LAW OF ECONOMICS ENTERS INTO THE HARVESTING OF WOLVES, WHETHER BY AERIAL SHOOTING, AERIAL TRAPPING OR GROUND TRAPPING. WHEN THE WOLF POPULATION IN ANY GIVEN AREA IS REDUCED TO WHERE IT IS NO LONGER ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO SPEND THE TIME AND MONEY IT TAKES TO HARVEST THEM, THEN, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES ACTIVITIES WILL STOP IN THAT AREA. THE WOLF POPULATION HAS NOT BEEN WIPED OUT. IT HAS JUST BEEN REDUCED TEMPORARILY TO A LEVEL UNECONOMICAL TO HARVEST. HARVEST PRESSURE WILL REMAIN AT A LOW LEVEL IN THAT AREA UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT ONCE AGAIN BECOMES ECONOMICALLY PRACTICAL TO PURSUE WOLVES ON A COST EFFECTIVE BASIS. WHEN THAT HAPPENS HARVESTING OF THE SURPLUS WILL RESUME.

ACTUALLY, THIS PARALLELS THE CONCEPT OF LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE WITH NO WOLF HARVEST UNTIL THERE ARE SO MANY WOLVES THAT THEY EAT ALL THEIR AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY - AT WHICH POINT THEY EAT EACH OTHER AND THE POPULATION CRASHES. IN EFFECT ABOUT THE SAME THING HAS TAKEN PLACE, BUT WITHOUT ANY OF THE BENEFITS OF A CONTROLLED HARVEST OR THE REVENUE DERIVED THEREFROM.

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*



## DICK GUNLOGSON

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PAGE THREE

IT IS A BIOLOGICAL FACT THAT WOLVES WILL REPLENISH THEIR POPULATION IN ANY GIVEN AREA OVER A MUCH SHORTER PERIOD OF TIME THAN WILL A SEVERELY DEPRESSED UNGULATE SPECIE. A BREEDING PAIR OF WOLVES IN A 400 SQUARE MILE AREA CAN, WITHIN 3 YEARS, BECOME 30 WOLVES. I DO NOT HOLD MUCH WATER WITH THE MYSTIC OF THE BREEDING PAIR. WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT ONLY ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE WILL BREED IN A FAMILY PACK, WE KNOW THAT ADULT WOLVES CAPABLE OF BREEDING WILL SOON SPLIT OFF TO FORM ANOTHER FAMILY GROUP AND THIS CONTINUES UNTIL THE POPULATION OF THE AREA EQUALS OR - IF UNHARVESTED - EXCEEDS THE AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY.

ONLY BY HARVESTING WOLVES ON A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS CAN WE AVOID THE EXCESSIVELY HIGH WOLF POPULATIONS THAT TRIGGER A CRASH IN THE AVAILABLE FOOD SUPPLY, FOLLOWED BY A CRASH IN THE WOLF POPULATION, ADINFINITUM. WITH A MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD HARVEST WE CAN MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF WOLVES FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PLAY WITH THEM, WE CAN PROPERLY UTILIZE A RESOURCE IMPORTANT TO BOTH RURAL AND URBAN ALASKANS, AND WE CAN PROTECT THE UNGULATE SPECIES TO ASSURE THEY WILL NOT BE DECIMATED TO LEVELS WHERE IT TAKES MANY, MANY YEARS FOR THEM TO RECOVER TO A NORMAL POPULATION LEVEL.

OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE IRREVERSIBLY OPPOSED TO THE KILLING OF ANY WOLVES - OR ANYTHING ELSE FOR THAT MATTER. THIS BOARD IS CHARGED WITH A MUCH BROADER AND DEEPER RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL ALASKANS, MOST OF WHOM, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, FIND IT DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO COME TO ANCHORAGE TO TESTIFY ON THESE ISSUES. THE MAXIMUM SUSTAINED YIELD HARVEST SHOULD PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO ANY REASONABLE AND FAIR-MINDED PERSON. I URGE THE BOARD TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

DICK GUNLOGSON  
BOX 193  
WILLOW, ALASKA

*Hunt* **ALASKAN** *Big Game*