ALASKA BOARD OF GAME 2009-179-BOG A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE AND TAG FEES

WHEREAS, the Board of Game and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) view hunting as a respected, traditional outdoor activity that remains a substantial and integral part of Alaska's heritage, culture, and environment; and

WHEREAS, ADF&G's Division of Wildlife Conservation (the "Division") proposes to protect and expand hunting opportunity in Alaska by maintaining existing programs and developing new initiatives specifically designed to benefit hunters; and

WHEREAS, the Division needs additional revenues to maintain adequate levels of core wildlife management services; and

WHEREAS, the Division proposes raising non-resident hunting license and tag fees to generate \$3.5 million annually in order to maintain and expand hunting opportunity in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, license fees have not been raised since 1993 and loss of purchasing power of license and tag revenues over this time due to inflation alone is over \$3.45 million; and

WHEREAS, Alaska charges non-residents fees that are lower than those paid by non-residents in nine other western states to hunt all species; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Wildlife Conservation would like to implement a bonus point system for hunters interested in improving their chances of being drawn for bison and Dall sheep permits; and

WHEREAS, the Division proposes to spend any new revenues generated by this increase to maintain and increase hunting opportunity in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Division will increase hunting opportunity through hunt management recommendations based on adequate monitoring, intensive management activities where authorized, habitat management, and expanded public services; and

WHEREAS, without new revenues, the Division will be forced to reduce its monitoring of wildlife populations, which will result in more conservative management and put hunting opportunity in jeopardy statewide; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Game supports an increase in nonresident hunting license and tag fees and pledges to work with the Division to craft an acceptable license fee

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proposal for consideration by the Alaska Legislature this session which assures that revenue generated by this user fee provides maximum benefit to the users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Board of Game supports charging resident and non-resident hunters a fee to cover costs associated with a bonus point system. The fee should by \$15.00 per hunter per species.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Alaska Board of Game on this 9h day of March 2009.

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