

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION #98-120-BOG**

Relating to ballot initiative banning use of snares for harvesting wolves.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Game recognizes that wolves are an important resource valued by Alaska residents, both socially and economically, and that the elimination of snares as a method of harvest would lead to economic and personal hardship for those dependent on trapping for their livelihood or recreation, and

WHEREAS, the harvest of wolves is a biologically sound practice that plays an important role in the management of other species, especially ungulates, and traps and snares are important cost-effective methods for balancing predator and prey. Snares, when properly deployed, are among the most efficient, humane, and selective methods of wolf harvest, and

WHEREAS, the group that is attempting to bring this issue to the voters has apparently submitted enough signatures to ensure a place on the ballot in 1998, with the intent to ban the use of snares to harvest wolves, and to criminalize the possession, sale, and purchase of wolves that have been snared, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game found (98-BOG-119) that information used by the group is not representative of common trapping practices ,and

WHEREAS, the Board of Game has a record of integrating informed public debate with scientific data and historical records to develop wildlife management strategies, and the use of ballot initiatives to decide management issues circumvents this process, and

WHEREAS, passage of this initiative would have significant adverse social, economic, and wildlife management implications, and


WHEREAS, the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game is constitutionally and statutorily mandated to manage Alaska's wildlife, including wolves, according to the sustained yield principle,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Game cannot support this proposed ballot initiative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Game urges Governor Knowles and Commissioner Rue to issue a detailed position statement on the impacts that this initiative would have on rural economics and wildlife management in Alaska, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Game recognizes the right of Department personnel and individual Board members to speak freely as individuals on this issue, and encourages them to do so.

ADOPTED DATE: March 26, 1998
Fairbanks, Alaska



Lori Quakenbush, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game