

Testimony of Patricia OBrien, Juneau, Alaska

Thank you for your service and consideration of my testimony. Regrettably serious leg injury prevents me from appearing in person.

I am an Alaskan resident of almost 48 years, residing for three years in the village of Hoonah and then in Juneau. Close friends have experienced traumatic incidents involving trapping, (some legally set traps & some not). Other friends across Alaska express fear of hiking on popular trails due to trapping. Quick research turned up that only Alaska and Texas hold a flunking grade for *lack of trapping regulations*, compared to the other 48 states.

A review existing regulations confirms the lack of requirements. This proposal would

1. Place the advice of the Department of Fish and Game published in the trapping handbook into regulation: *Act responsibly as a trapper and conservationist by trapping in ways to minimize conflict between trapping and other users, e.g. avoid high recreational use areas. Avoid situations where you might catch a domestic dog or cat, such as near homes, or trails frequently used by hikers, skijorers, dog mushers, or other people.*
2. Utilize as a model, the Board of Game's own regulations for hunting bear with bait or scent lures, to ensure reasonable safety for adults, children, and their pets from traumatic trapping incidents.

The Board's regulations related to placement of bait and scent lures are a thoughtful model and already implemented, ensuring reasonable success in applying the same requirements to trap sets.

The timing is right for adoption of this proposal. Alaska has significantly advanced in the last half century. That means many more people reside here and visit from around the world. We are experiencing much more traffic at recreations sites and on trails including dogs, horses, mushers, skijorers, tourists, guides, photographers, researchers and many others with specialized interests.

With the major down turn in Alaska's economy, it is responsible to support tourism and drawing others to Alaska, including Alaska trails for financial stimulation.

The Board of Game has a reputation of always accepting trapper proposals and no proposals on trapping from others. That is true for ACs as well, as demonstrated by a review of AC recommendations on this proposal book. It is time for the Board of Game to seriously consider reasonable trapping standards in response to a larger public need.

Thank you.

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