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Governor Parnell:

Although I was unable to attend the March 4 Board of Game meeting at the Lake Lucille Inn in Wasilla, I would like to make some comments. Aerial gunning to kill ("manage") wolves and bears is illegal in all states except Alaska, where a loophole was found to allow it. It is a practice that is cruel, brutal, unethical, and immoral and it is not based on sound science. Instead, it is based on people's (sport hunters and their supporters) perception of wolves and bears as competitors for the same animals that they want to kill. This despicable practice needs to be stopped now. More species do not need to be added to the hit list.

The proposed changes in state policy that would allow other means of wildlife slaughter, such as bear baiting, trapping with foot snares, incidental take of brown bears, sales of hides and skulls to provide an incentive to kill bears, the taking of sows with cubs, the taking of cubs, the use of bear parts for handicrafts for sale, and same-day airborne taking, etc., are equally reprehensible. Furthermore, this kind of "management" of Alaska's wildlife is not what most Alaskans (including hunters) and visitors to our state want.

There is no scientific justification for these changes to the state Bear and Wolf Conservation, Harvest and Management Policies, just the agenda of a few local and Outside sport/trophy hunters. Most Alaskans simply want the privilege of viewing these magnificent animals, which are such a large part of what makes Alaska unique.

Sincerely,

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