

I am writing in OPPOSITION to RC009 for the following reasons:

This proposal was not available at the start of the Board of Game meeting and was introduced after the meeting had started. Since this proposal was introduced after the public comment period had closed, the public had only 24 hours notice to sign up for in-person commenting. It appears that the Alaska Board of Game will violate due process against the State of Alaska by not giving the public a reasonable and meaningful opportunity to be heard.

This proposal goes against the Alaska Constitution's principle of sustained yield because it values the sustainability of caribou herds but doesn't adequately study bear populations and their sustainability. On March 14th, Judge Andrew Guidi vacated this predator control program due to the lack of research that this proposal has on the bear population:

"Having carefully reviewed the record and the arguments advanced by the State, it is apparent that the State did not have adequate, relevant population studies or any genuine data about bear sustainability in the area of the control program prior to adopting a proposal that would have an obvious impact on a constitutionally protected public resource.

The issue of the bear population and distribution is an obvious salient issue touching on sustainability. Addressing the sustainability of a constitutionally protected resource like bears almost certainly requires the BOG to engage in more than a rudimentary discussion about a bear population or engage in conclusionary opinions when considering a proposal to initiate a program calling for the unrestricted killing of bears."

Only seven days have passed since this ruling, which is obviously not enough time to have adequately conducted research on the bear population in the area.

The bear population within nearby Katmai National Park is closely observed by naturalists, rangers, park visitors and live camera viewers. It is widely recognized among this group that a considerable number of the resident bears did not return to Brooks Falls last year. Bear viewing brings a tremendous amount of attention and revenue to the state. Bear enthusiasts worldwide have recently become aware of the recent proposals regarding the bears of Alaska and are actively seeking to educate themselves on these issues. With the

commonplace use of social media, I believe that if this predator control program is reinstated, it could trigger an economic catastrophe for small businesses that depend on tourism dollars.

A study published by the University of Alaska Fairbanks found that wildlife viewing for Katmai National Park and Preserve contributed a yearly total of 84.6 million dollars to the Alaskan economy. (Young, Taylor B. & Little, Joseph M. (2019). The Economic Contributions of Bear Viewing in Southcentral Alaska. University of Alaska Fairbanks, prepared for Cook Inletkeeper, <https://inletkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Bear-Viewing-Economics-Study.pdf>)