

To whom it may concern:

I am surprised to hear that there are debates and law suits against predator population control of region 18 in Alaska.

I live in unit 18. In the summer of 2022, while I was out berry picking, I came across a mom bear with 3 cubs. I was told later that this only happens when the bears population are flourishing. To me, this meant that the bears are doing so well that they are having more and more cubs each year. Wolves in our area are more elusive, rarely seen, but their tracks are prominent. This is a threat to the Mulchatna herd.

I grew up eating caribou at least 3-5 times a week. We dried, souped, fried, baked and packed the meat and used the hide for clothing and regalia. I moved back home in 2019 to find that caribou was so scarce that a moratorium was in place. I have yet to fill my freezer with caribou meat in the 6 years I've been back. As a parent and grandparent, it has been my hope that the caribou continue to grow to the capacity that they once were.

With that said, I strongly believe that the bears and wolves in region 18 are overpopulated, causing a considerable decline in caribou.

I support and approve IM management on Mulchatna Herd calving grounds.

Quyana  
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