

RESOLUTION NO. 90-46-BOG

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

RELATING TO DESTRUCTION OF MOOSE BY THE ALASKA RAILROAD

- Whereas, the Alaska Board of Game is statutorily charged with conservation and development of the wildlife resources of the state and the Alaska Constitution mandates maintenance of Alaska's wildlife populations on a sustained yield basis; and
- Whereas, the Alaska Legislature is currently considering the Committee Substitute for House Bill 484, an act relating to destruction of moose by the Alaska Railroad; and
- Whereas, moose populations in the railbelt area of southcentral Alaska are of great importance to thousands of Alaskans as a source of food, recreation, and economic benefits; and
- Whereas, large numbers of moose are killed by trains each year (over 650 moose killed in the winter of 1989-90) and this destruction of moose by the Alaska Railroad constitutes a significant loss of a valuable wildlife resource; and
- Whereas, measures have been identified by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Railroad, and new measures may be developed to significantly reduce the number of moose struck by trains; and
- Whereas, effective long-term reduction in the destruction of moose will require diligent efforts by the Alaska Railroad and such efforts can be assured through legislative enactment;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

the Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature to enact CS HB 484 or similar legislation containing provisions that would require the Alaska Railroad in particular to:

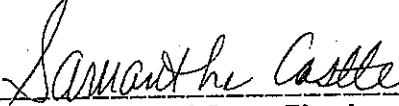
1. clear browse from the railroad right-of-way, maintain cleared or packed trails in the snow parallel to and on both sides of the railroad tracks, and use pilot cars to precede trains on portions of the railroad identified by the Department of Fish and Game as having high moose kill rates; and
2. establish a program to investigate and develop new or improved measures to reduce the number of moose killed by operations on the railroad; and
3. continue the current program for salvage of train-killed moose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that the Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska Legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to the Department of Fish and Game to develop a moose habitat enhancement program that will provide alternative wintering areas for moose and reduce use by moose of the railroad and highway corridor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that copies of this Resolution be promptly transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House and the Chairmen of the Senate and House Resource, Transportation, and Finance Committees.


Samantha Castle, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ADOPTED: March 26, 1990
Anchorage, Alaska
VOTE: 6 Favor 0 Oppose 1 Absent