

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

CSHB 134(RES) Ver O – Board of Game Composition

CSHB 134(RES) amends the composition of the Board of Game to include at least one member whose main use of game resources is nonconsumptive and who is actively engaged in wildlife conservation.

In making board member appointments, the bill directs the governor to consider a diversity of interests and points of view. Unfortunately, past and present board appointments have favored consumptive interests and failed to include sufficient representation for nonconsumptive interests.

Alaska's wildlife is more than a hunting opportunity for many Alaskans and visitors. Wildlife viewing, photography, and scientific research carry value such that it is worth having non-consumptive interests represented on the Board of Game.

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution to repeal a regulation that prohibited control measures such as baiting, trapping, and shooting from aircraft to hunt certain wildlife on federal wildlife refuges in Alaska. In a news story, the Board of Game chairman expressed support for the resolution. Yet, there are multiple views on such a proposal, including the impact certain controversial control measures might have on tourists' and other nonconsumptive users' desire to visit the state.

House Bill 134 helps ensure that a better balance of viewpoints will be represented on the Board of Game and that Alaska's wildlife continues to thrive and benefit the multiple interests of the state.