

Support for House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 122 for Wildlife Conservation Pass (May 2003)

RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

A Resolution Supporting H.B. 163 and S.B. 122.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY:

WHEREAS Governor Murkowski has introduced legislation (H.B. 163 and S.B. 122) to raise additional revenues for fish and wildlife management programs in Alaska; and

WHEREAS this legislation would require nonresidents who use a commercial provider of an opportunity to view wildlife to purchase an annual Wildlife Conservation Pass; and

WHEREAS hunters and anglers already contribute substantially to the cost of fish and wildlife management through the purchase of licenses and tags and the payment of excise taxes; and

WHEREAS the Governor's intent is to ensure that "the cost of wildlife management is shared more broadly by those who use and enjoy our wildlife, and that the Department of Fish and Game has the resources necessary to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife resources;" and

WHEREAS the Alaska chapter of The Wildlife Society endorses these goals; and

WHEREAS the legislation calls for revenues generated from the sale of passes to go into a separate account of the General Fund, where they "may be appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of fish and wildlife management, viewing, and education programs;"

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska Chapter of the Wildlife Society, that the Chapter endorses this proposed legislation, provided that a major portion of the funds are appropriated to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the stated purposes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that these funds should be appropriated to match federal funds provided to the Department of Fish and Game through the State Wildlife Grant Program, thus ensuring that Alaska is able to make optimal use of these funds.

Adopted this 9th day of April 2003.

Douglas N. Larsen, Chapter President