

September 27, 2007

ANIMAL FUNDRAISING GROUPS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO STARVE RURAL AND NATIVE ALASKANS

Dear Colleague,

I strongly urge you to oppose George Miller's recently introduced H.R. 3663, the so-called "Protect America's Wildlife Act." This egregious legislation not only violates the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, it is being offered by a Member who has little understanding of Alaska and Alaskan wildlife management issues, and apparently zero concern for the fact that his legislation will take food out of the mouths of thousands of Alaskans.

Rep. Miller's bill would eliminate Alaska's predator control program which ensures the security of the food sources on which Native and rural Alaskans have survived for hundreds of years. An overabundance of predatory Arctic Grey Wolves threatens these Alaskans' food supply, and the state's science and abundance-based program ensures their food security, while maintaining a healthy, viable, and reproductive population of wolves.

This is not "hunting." It is necessary predator control.

This unprecedented federal incursion into traditional State management of fish and wildlife would ban the elimination of predatory wolves from aircraft. Since Alaska has fewer miles of paved roads than the District of Columbia, but is over twice the size of Texas, airplanes are the only efficient means of carrying out this necessary, science-based predator control practice. The system ensures that the moose, caribou, and other wildlife populations on which wolves prey, remain at levels sufficient to feed the thousands of Native and rural Alaskans who depend on the food source for survival.

Unlike other grey wolf populations in the lower 48, Arctic Grey Wolves have never been listed as threatened or endangered. Why? Because Alaska has more than 10,000 grey wolves, the population reproduces at an average rate of 40% per year, and the State's science-driven and abundance-based predator control policy calls for the taking of just 140 wolves per year.

Unfortunately, Rep. Miller, the Defenders of Wildlife, and other radical animal rights groups who wrote H.R. 3663 ignore these facts, place wildlife ahead of the needs of real human beings, and would like you to do the same. They would like you to believe their legislation will "save the wolves" and end "inhumane hunting." They will issue emotional press releases and inundate unsuspecting Americans with misinformation, pictures of wolf puppies, and requests to donate money.

This cynical, disingenuous campaign will likely generate thousands of dollars in donations, but should Rep. Miller's bill become law, it will take food out of the mouths of my constituents and their children.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 3663. Attached for your review is a copy of Governor Sarah Palin's letter to Rep. Miller condemning H.R. 3663, and detailing the devastating impacts it would have on Alaska. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Kevin Kennedy in my office at 5-5765.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG
Member of Congress