

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the unethical practice of slaughtering bears under the justification of increasing caribou populations—a policy that lacks credible scientific evidence of effectiveness.

This method of predator control is not only ecologically irresponsible, but morally unjustifiable. Apex predators like bears play a vital role in maintaining healthy, balanced ecosystems. The indiscriminate killing of these intelligent, sentient animals to artificially manipulate wildlife populations undermines the integrity of Alaska's natural heritage and threatens the balance of the land we are meant to protect.

Numerous studies have shown that caribou population fluctuations are driven more by habitat quality, climate patterns, and human interference than by predation. Yet, the state continues to authorize killing methods that are both inhumane and unsupported by peer-reviewed science.

I urge the Board to reconsider these outdated and unethical practices. Alaska should be a leader in wildlife conservation—not in its destruction. True stewardship means protecting the web of life, not disrupting it for short-term human interests or political convenience.

Respectfully,

Paris Murdock