

To: Alaska Board of Game
Fr: Laurence Goldin
Re: Comment Opposing Proposed Bear Control Expansion in the Mulchatna Region

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing as a fifty-five-year Alaska resident and as someone who has spent many hours in close proximity to both male and female bears—including sows with cubs—while working as a filmmaker. Through that experience, I have developed a deep respect for the intelligence, social bonds, and ecological role of these animals. I urge you not to approve the proposed expansion of the predator control program in the Mulchatna region.

The scale and method of the proposed aerial bear removals—especially targeting both black and brown bears across over 40,000 square miles—represent an extreme and, in my view, unjustified intervention. The bear populations in this region are not pests to be eliminated. They are essential apex species and part of the natural heritage that defines Alaska for those of us who live here and care about our wild places.

Equally troubling is the Board's continued push to implement and expand this program despite two Superior Court rulings that deemed the earlier efforts unlawful. Rushing forward now with emergency regulations undermines public trust and bypasses meaningful scientific review and stakeholder input. It disregards both ecological complexity and the law.

Having observed bears firsthand in their natural environment, I find the prospect of indiscriminate aerial gunning—including of sows and cubs—profoundly disturbing. Bear behavior is nuanced, and their presence cannot be managed ethically or effectively by blunt-force tactics. The causes of the Mulchatna caribou herd's decline—whether disease, habitat degradation, or climate stress—deserve thoughtful study, not a scapegoating of predators without scientific consensus.

Please do not move forward with this proposal. Alaska can and should do better—for our wildlife, for our communities, and for future generations.

Sincerely,
Laurence Goldin,
Anchorage, AK.