

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing because I am genuinely troubled by the reports of brown bears being killed in the Mulchatna region by helicopter. The idea that this is happening in modern-day Alaska is hard to comprehend. It feels like something from another era, not a decision based on the kind of thoughtful, science-based wildlife management we should be practicing today.

From what I understand, the justification for this operation is to protect the caribou herd. But to date, I have not seen any reliable evidence that points to bears being the cause of the herd's decline. On the contrary, voices like that of Sterling Miller, a retired biologist with deep experience in Alaska, suggest that this theory has no solid backing. If there is no real data to support it, then what exactly are we doing?

Over two hundred bears have reportedly been killed in just the past couple of years. That number is staggering. And yet there appears to be very little effort to study what impact this is having on the ecosystem or even to monitor what is being lost in the process. It is not just the scale that is concerning. It is the apparent lack of oversight, of transparency, and of basic accountability.

This should give all of us pause. Grizzly bears have already suffered massive losses across the lower forty-eight states, and now we are removing them from the landscape in Alaska without even a clear reason. These are animals that play a critical role in the environment. Their removal affects far more than just one species of prey.

I am asking those in charge to stop and take a hard look at this situation. Decisions of this magnitude cannot be based on assumption or pressure. They must be grounded in actual science, in respect for the natural world, and in recognition of our responsibility to protect it.

Please reconsider this course of action before it becomes another example of damage that cannot be undone.

Sincerely,

Alexander Miao