



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Con Bunde

Senate District P

Senate Minority Leader / Senate Republican Caucus

Member: Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Sponsor Statement

SJR 25

“Urging the United States Congress to reject S. 1535 and H.R. 3381, the Protect America's Wildlife Act of 2009, which seek to limit aerial hunting of wildlife.”

The list of the federal government’s attempts and success at superimposing its own policies and practices over those of the State of Alaska is as long as the state’s history.

Yet another addition can be added to that litany with the recent introduction of S1535 and HR3381, two pieces of federal legislation that aim to undermine Alaska’s ability to manage its own wildlife.

This legislation, referred to as the “PAW (Protect America’s Wildlife) Act of 2009,” jeopardizes Alaska’s ability to manage healthy, sustainable predator and prey populations in two significant ways: (1) by restricting aerial predator control programs to state or federal employees, and (2) by requiring that a state of biological emergency be proven before allowing the implementation of a predator control program.

By limiting those who can participate in an aerial predator control program to only state or federal wildlife employees, the PAW Act would drive up the cost of the program to prohibitively expensive levels. And by requiring a finding of “imminent biological emergency,” the PAW Act would essentially allow the initiation of a predator control program only if an animal population was on the edge of extinction – a point that many would consider too late for an effective response.

By sending a strong message to Congress to reject the federal PAW Act, SJR 25 aims to safeguard a proven and effective method of managing healthy, sustainable predator and prey populations and to preserve Alaska’s sovereign authority to manage its own wildlife.