

Grizzly Bear Killing Investigation Asked

The Alaska Oil and Gas Association has asked the governor for an investigation into alleged killing of grizzly bears by oil industry and contractor personnel on the North Slope.

In a letter June 16, the trade association urged prosecution of all violators revealed by the investigation.

The letter cites articles in national publications, which allege the North Slope's barren ground grizzly population is endangered by illegal hunting. The stories imply that oil contractor crews

are responsible for the alleged problem.

In announcing the request for an investigation, William W. Hopkins, manager of the Association, said:

"We especially hope that the State sees fit to hold the investigation and that the results are widely publicized. We believe it will be in the best interest of the public to know the extent of the alleged threat and whom is responsible.

"Our industry has gone to great lengths to prohibit hunting by its personnel job contractor employees. If the policy is not successful in practice, the public has a right to know.

"If, on the other hand, the allegations are substantially false or exaggerated, it is only right that the public should know that as well."