

# Open Letter

Wiseman, Alaska  
May 9, 1965

An open letter to A. W. Bud Boddy:

I wish to defend Senate Resolution 13 and point out that if this is an extreme performance, it is also a necessary one.

The Senators had no choice. They tried to legislate what the public wanted and it was a bare minimum.

Your attitude of opposition to the democratic operation will likely result in stronger majority control of your Sportsman's Empire. I am a representative of that public and I resent being referred to as vindictive, emotional, prejudiced, and a owner of a vested interest.

I appealed to the legislators for action because my game management proposals were not accepted or considered by the game board. And my privilege of operating under the Alaska Bounty Law was denied me without just cause. Indeed the chairman of the game board encouraged me to take this course.

Mr. Miller said, "Excellent, you may appeal to the legislature. I consider the wolf a fine trophy animal. Everybody knows that poison baits is the best way to control wolves."

Senate Resolution 13 is not distorted, irresponsible, or vindictive. It is the result of a mistake made by the people of your group. They classified the wolf a big game animal.

My group, the game users, has proved its majority. We had no part in the act of nullifying the bounty law and glorifying the wolf as a trophy animal. We game users live in the many villages and camps located north of Fairbanks and we have no official representatives, no advisory boards, no information on new game proposals, no current game regulation books, no salesmen with hunting and trapping licenses, big game tags, and whatnot.

We are treated as game poachers. The ADFG does not respect our abilities or wishes.

I quote Mr. Miller, "Even if you are a majority, your proposals are

not good game management. I do not accept them."

This so-called representative would not accept as valid my petition which was properly signed by the Chief and the entire adult population of the Arctic settlement named Anaktuvuk Pass.

These arctic Native hunters know me as a professional airplane wolf bounty hunter. They know, I know, and the ADFG knows that the airplane bounty hunter has the only practical method of wolf control. We did not ask for the extermination of the wolf specie.

We want control. We know wolf predator control is most important in good game management and wild life conservation.

We do not believe the Game Department has a monopoly on the brains required to recognize good game management. Director James Brooks and Regional Biologist Robert Rausch admit they use the wolf for a game management tool. Chairman Miller advocates the use of poison baits for predator control. ADFG airplanes, poison baits, and the wolf pack are important tools of waste and destruction.

We want game conservation and we know who the hypocrite really is. Wolves easily create and control a crowded herd conditions of caribou. This is the logical and main reason for any decadence of the arctic caribou.

It is impossible for humans to properly harvest or make use of the common caribou under your conditions which are:

The animal is classified a big game animal. There is little market value for this animal within the arctic area. We game users are not permitted to export. I personally had a letter from the ADFG office in Fairbanks which denied me the permission to slaughter caribou on a commercial scale. The reason given was, "Caribou is big game." Evidently caribou value as a rare trophy must be protected.

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We are not even allowed to feed caribou to our dogs. Mr. Boddy, you really do provide a typical example of a sportsman's ignorance and disrespect for Alaskan people and Alaskan wolves.

Our attitudes may be conditioned, but they are realistically conditioned by real live living in a distant locale that is also occupied by real live wolf predators. We also know whom writes, reads, and believes the adventure stories.

I can see no excuse for you to state that I or the Senators seek or expect the extermination of the wolf specie. That may or may not be beneficial, but is an impossibility for us professional bounty hunters.

Your statement that the present abundance of Alaska's game resource is due to ADFG is a typical example of someone in your group to discredit the Alaska Bounty Law. Public tax money paid out for predator control to the bounty hunter bought that abundance. Large game populations and abundances are the announced concern of prominent ADFG officials. We paid for that abundance. We want it and we could use it.

Apparently Alaska is too big and has too many game users for you sportsmen. It is your mistake. This so-called unjustified attack on ADFG is the result of an injustice.

The past State administration has not provided for representatives or game advisory boards from the outlying areas. My proposals that this be done are ignored.

Our petitions and our letters of protest are only an attempt to participate, to be understood in the affairs of game management. We cannot afford to buy publicity or space in Tundra Times or other news media. We cannot afford to organize into effective groups, clubs, associations, or federations.

We can afford to vote at the next State election, indeed we will be heard.

/s/ Earl Boese