

McGrath Man Opposes Trapping Legislation

A McGrath man is starting a grass roots movement and encouraging villagers to send petitions to their representatives in Congress to oppose legislation banning leg hold traps and which would also limit the sale of furs caught by such traps.

The petitions also ask the rights to continue to trap on federal and state lands.

"It's something I always wanted to do. I'm fed up with hearing some of these things going on," explained Frank Walter, a former New Jerseyite who has been trapping in Alaska for the past nine years.

Walter said the main opposition to the leg hold traps are conservation and animal protection societies, which he adds has a lot of money to lobby with though many have never seen a leg hold trap.

The legislation, which Walter said, appears annually and is gaining support and if passed would limit the freedom of the trappers and their much needed income.

"In underdeveloped areas, as Alaska, trapping is an important occupation."

Walter is assisted on the trapline by his wife, Carol, and their two sons.