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March 21, 2018

The Hon. Andy Josephson  
Alaska House of Representatives  
Room 102 Capitol Bldg.  
Juneau, AK, 99801

Dear Representative Josephson:

Our sportsmen-conservation and professional organizations, representing a large portion of all American sportsmen and women, strongly support House Concurrent Resolution No. 23. This measure supports enhanced efforts to protect wildlife and domestic animals in the state from infectious diseases, foreign pathogens, and non-endemic parasites. This is a vital and basic duty in wildlife conservation.

Action against foreign pathogens and infectious diseases is particularly important in Alaska where wildlife is a celebrated treasure of worldwide renown. The value of wildlife conservation reaches throughout the way of life and economy of Alaska, intertwined with such basic needs as food security and such economic strengths as tourism.

HCR No. 23 is consistent with a federal proposal from Sen. Lisa Murkowski directing federal agencies to use the best data and information to identify risks of disease transmission and solutions by working directly with state agencies, other professionals, and stakeholders.

With 40,000-50,000 Dall's sheep, Alaska is home to 25% of all wild sheep in North America. Recent proof of pathogen spillover from domestic stock to wild Dall's sheep in the Talkeetna range is alarming and should be a call to swift action to prevent additional disease transmission which threatens this incredibly valuable resource to Alaskans, Americans and people worldwide.

Please rely on our full support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 23 as you continue to push for its adoption.

Thank you for your efforts.