

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DAVIES House District 29

Sponsor Statement HB 14

This bill provides a statutory framework for the subsistence use of fish and game that is consistent with ANILCA. House Bill 14 implements my “dotted line” proposal, which provides a compromise version of rural priority that allows maximum opportunity for subsistence use of fish and game by urban residents.

This measure would require the passage of House Joint Resolution 4, which allows a statewide vote to amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska to allow the Legislature to provide a priority for subsistence users of fish, wildlife, and other replenishable natural resources on state land, based on place of residence, dependence upon, or customary and traditional uses of the replenishable resources.

The “dotted line” proposal embodied in HB 14 would establish rural areas of the state: a resident of a rural area would automatically have a preference in the subsistence taking of fish and game. Residents of non-rural areas (urban) could apply for the subsistence preference and could be granted that preference based on his or her place of residence dependence upon and or customary and traditional use of a fish stock or game population. When fish and game are plentiful all residents in the State who qualify would have subsistence access to all fish and game. When fish and game are limited, access would be restricted eventually to just subsistence users who reside near the endangered stock population.