

# Ballot Measure 3

## Prohibiting Bear Baiting or Feeding

### BALLOT QUESTION

This bill would make it illegal for a person to bait or intentionally feed a bear to hunt, photograph, or view a bear. A person could not feed a bear on purpose or use any item or substance, including food or other edible matter to entice a bear into an area, or to stay in an area. A person who violates this law would be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one-year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000.

SHOULD THIS INITIATIVE BECOME LAW?

YES

NO

### BALLOT MEASURE SUMMARY

Prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency

This measure bans baiting for feeding of bears for the purpose of hunting, photography, or viewing. The terms "bait" and "intentionally feed" are defined for the purpose of this measure. The violation of this measure is a class A misdemeanor.

### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

#### VOTE "YES" ON BALLOT MEASURE 3

Alaska is one of only nine states where bear baiting is legal. The practice involves trophy hunters putting out barrels stuffed with stale pastries, dog food, bacon grease and other unnatural foods at "bait stations," for the purpose of enticing wild bears to be shot. Thousands of black bears and brown bears are drawn to such sites, resulting in a reported annual kill of 650 black bears. The likelihood of artificially fed bears becoming nuisance, dangerous animals is obviously greater than those exposed only to wild foods.

It is already illegal to bait bears for the purpose of photography or viewing. Ballot Measure 3 would add hunting to the list of prohibited bear baiting practices.

#### **Bear Baiting Is Unsportsmanlike and Unfair**

Public opinion polls indicate that most Alaskans consider bear baiting as unsportsmanlike. Ethical, "fair-chase" hunters agree.

*"Putting out a cache of food to lure a bear into the close range of a powerful rifle is the antithesis of fair-chase. To kill a bear, or any animal, in that manner is inhumane and beneath human dignity."* - former Lieutenant Governor Lowell Thomas Jr.

*"Bear baiting is a lazy, unethical and dangerous practice."*  
- George Pollard, retired Master Hunting Guide and a Director of Citizens United Against Bear Baiting.

#### **Bear Baiting Is Not Compatible With Public Safety**

*"Keeping bears away from human food is perhaps the most important thing we can do to prevent conflicts and confrontations between bears and people."* - Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

Bear baiters can place bait stations a quarter mile from public roads or trails, and one mile from people's homes. These are insignificant distances to food-habituated bears. In one study, ADF&G documented hundreds of brown bears and black bears with cubs at bait stations, creating the potential for many to become food-habituated, problem animals. ADF&G has also recorded hundreds of baiting violations, mostly involving unsafe bait station conditions that could lead unsuspecting hikers into having a bear encounter.

#### **Bear Baiting Is Not A Necessary Management Tool**

ADF&G has a long history of effectively regulating bear harvests without having trophy hunters engage in bear baiting. Numerous states, as well as the Yukon and British Columbia, have shown that bear populations can be well managed without resorting to baiting.

#### **Class A Misdemeanor**

Under the new statute, bear baiting would be a Class A misdemeanor, which is the standard penalty that applies to violations of most of Alaska's fish and game laws.

#### **This initiative is supported by Citizens United Against Bear Baiting**

([www.cubb.org](http://www.cubb.org)), a group of Alaskans whose directorship includes sport hunters, master hunting guides, Alaska Natives, biologists, bear viewing guides, wildlife photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, and other concerned citizens who want to keep Alaska's wildlife wild.

Lowell Thomas Jr.,  
Former State Senator and Lieutenant Governor  
Co-chair, Citizens United Against Bear Baiting

Joel Bennett  
Hunter and former member of the Board of Game  
Co-chair, Citizens United Against Bear Baiting

Paul Joslin, Ph.D.  
Wildlife biologist  
Co-chair, Citizens United Against Bear Baiting

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### STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Vote “No” on the Ban, *it goes too far!*

Dear fellow Alaskans,

Once again we are under attack by out-of-state animal rights extremists such as Greenpeace and P.E.T.A! The proposed bear ban is another attempt to change Alaska for the worse. The ban would:

- Ban the intentional feeding of bears for the purpose of **hunting, photography or viewing;**
- Send a person to **jail for up to one-year with a \$10,000 fine** for each violation;
- **Prohibit the Alaska Department of Fish and Game** from intentionally feeding problem bears with the intent of capturing and relocating them away from town; and
- **Severely limit** the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s ability to manage game populations.

The initiative defines intentionally feed as to “give, deposit, distribute, discard, scatter or otherwise expose any attractant or edible material...” This language is so broad a person could be **sent to jail and fined just for having a bird feeder in their back yard** that may attract a bear.

This initiative is being **proposed by out-of state extremists like Greenpeace and P.E.T.A.** and is being heavily funded by numerous national anti-hunting, anti-fishing and environmental obstructionist groups. These same groups have tried for years to tell Alaskans how to live and what to do with our resources. The same type of people who **tried to ban the Iditarod**, to block drilling in ANWR, to end subsistence hunting including whale and seal hunting, as well as to cripple tourism and stop commercial fishing are the ones pushing this ban. Luckily for us, most of their efforts have failed, but one victory for them would most certainly open the door for more attacks on our way of life.

Under this measure the Alaska Department of Fish and Game would be prohibited from feeding a problem bear to live trap it and relocate it away from our communities. Professional game biologists would also be prohibited from utilizing one of the most effective game management tools available. Such limitations on Alaska’s game management options will result in **out of control predator populations.**

Imagine the result of such restrictive language; protection of our children and pets from dangerous predators would be extremely difficult. The language in this initiative is so broadly written a person could **go to jail for up to one-year for protecting their pets or property.**

This ban is a statewide mandate that wouldn't allow for any local control or public involvement. It is simply common sense; **this important game management decision should be made by the professionals** at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through their public process, not by out-of-state extremists who want to trick you into voting their way.

Please join us, the Board of Game and thousands of other Alaskans from native, rural and urban communities in voting **"No" on the Ban, it goes too far.**

Also endorsing this letter:

Eddie Grasser, Field Representative National Rifle Association

Sydney Huntington, Former Alaska Board of Fish and Game and Board of Game member

Sincerely,

Congressman Don Young

Jennifer Yuhas  
Executive Director, Alaska Outdoor Council

Al Adams  
Former State Senator, Kotzebue

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