CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48(RES) am S

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/16/95
Offered: 5/6/95

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES NAVARRE, G.Davis, Green
SENATORS Salo, Torgerson

A RESOLUTION

Requesting that the Federal Subsistence Board not adopt the proposed subsistence
moose hunting regulations for the Kenai Peninsula, and refrain, until January 1,
1997, from adopting federal regulations that would grant subsistence preferences
for fish or game or changing any customary and traditional use determinations.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the Federal Subsistence Board has proposed granting new subsistence
preferences to several communities on the Kenai Peninsula for the purposes of subsistence
hunting; and

WHEREAS the adoption of any new federal regulation changes for subsistence may
create additional conflicts with subsistence hunting and fishing and further divide residents of
Alaska; and

WHEREAS this will be the first time that communities will have been given
comprehensive new subsistence preferences since the federal government took over the
management of subsistence hunting on federal lands; and

WHEREAS this federal proposal does not address the adverse effects on the 44,400
residents of the Kenai Peninsula, most of whom do not agree with this plan; and
WHEREAS a petition opposing the Federal Subsistence Board's proposal was signed by 1,800 residents of the Kenai Peninsula within 10 days after the petition began to be circulated; and

WHEREAS there was not sufficient opportunity for peninsula residents to testify before the Federal Subsistence Board to address their concerns about these drastic changes in hunting regulations on the Kenai Peninsula; and

WHEREAS the public is poorly informed about the process of the regional subsistence advisory councils and the degree of deference given to those regional councils by the Federal Subsistence Board; and

WHEREAS the residents of the communities of Hope, Cooper Landing, Whittier, Seldovia, and Ninilchik should not receive special preference over other residents of Kenai Peninsula communities; and

WHEREAS Alaskans are working for a comprehensive solution for regaining state management of fish and game;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully and urgently requests that the Federal Subsistence Board not approve any subsistence regulations which conflict with the Alaska State Constitution; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Federal Subsistence Board to refrain, until January 1, 1997, unless concurred in by the commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, from

(1) adopting any future federal regulations that would grant subsistence preferences for fish or game; and

(2) changing any of the customary and traditional use determinations in order to allow the new administration, the legislature, and Alaska's Congressional delegation the opportunity to build consensus among all Alaskans to provide a solution to the subsistence dilemma that will return management of Alaska's fish and game resources to the State of Alaska.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior; the Honorable
Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the Federal Subsistence Board.